POLICE SECURITY EXPO SHOW GUIDE – PAGE 55

MAY/JUNE 2024
VOLUME 40 ISSUE 3

P&SN Police and Security News

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

Concealed Carry HOLSTER CONSIDERATIONS – For Men and Women

Trigger Control IS NOT the Answer

What Are the FOUR KEYS to SUPERIOR FIREARMS TRAINING?

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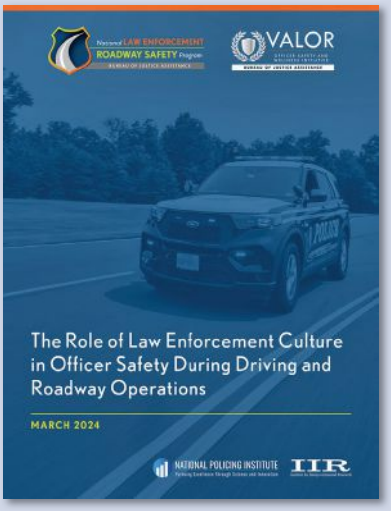
NEWS

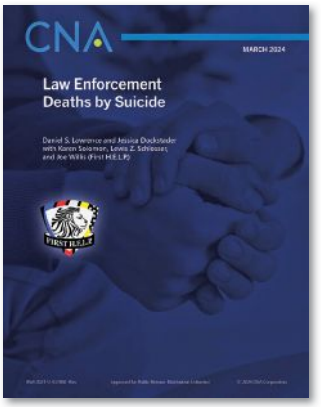
THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT CULTURE IN OFFICER SAFETY DURING DRIVING AND ROADWAY OPERATIONS


VALOR
The Role of Law Enforcement Culture in Officer Safety During Driving and Roadway Operations
MARCH 2024
NATIONAL POLICING INSTITUTE
IIR

Released by the National Policing Institute (NPI), this brief is intended to provide law enforcement leaders with guidance on addressing organizational culture which may currently run counter to roadway safety best practices. As agencies seek to mitigate the risk factors for officer-involved collisions and struck-by incidents and work to develop a culture of roadway safety, leaders and officers should look to the National Law Enforcement Roadway Safety Program (NLERSP) for support and guidance on actionable steps which can be taken.

A copy of the brief can be read at **https://tinyurl.com/258ub7nn**

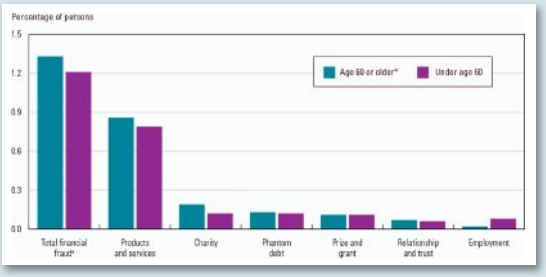
LAW ENFORCEMENT DEATHS BY SUICIDE



Published by the Center for Naval Analyses' (CNA) Center for Justice Research and Innovation, this report includes data collected by First H.E.L.P. on law enforcement and correctional officer deaths by suicide. First H.E.L.P.'s efforts represent a notable stride toward comprehensively collecting reliable and valid data on the challenging issue of law enforcement deaths by suicide, marking one of the most extensive efforts undertaken in this area. This research brief presents analyses of the 1,287 deaths by suicide of law enforcement and correctional officers from 2016 to 2022, offering descriptive information categorized by year of occurrence, agency details, geographic location, demographic attributes, position specifics, help-seeking behaviors, life challenges that persons encountered before their deaths, and details about the death events.

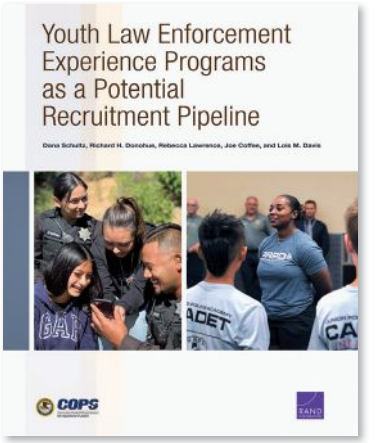
A copy of the full report can be downloaded at **https://tinyurl.com/4txpm3mr**

EXAMINING FINANCIAL FRAUD AGAINST OLDER ADULTS



Written by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), this article presents findings from a nationally representative sample of persons age 60 or older who experienced personal financial fraud. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) Supplemental Fraud Survey (SFS) aims to address the need for nationally representative estimates of fraud, both reported and not reported to the police. In addition, the SFS reveals that the demographic profile of financial fraud victims age 60 or older differs from the profile of fraud victims age 18 or older.

A copy of this article can be found at **https://tinyurl.com/bttf4x6j**



YOUTH LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS AS A POTENTIAL RECRUITMENT PIPELINE

Law enforcement agencies across the United States use youth law enforcement programs such as camps, Explorers, internships, and vocational education programs to introduce young people to the potential of a law enforcement career. The decline in law enforcement applicant pools makes such engagement strategies even more necessary. To help determine the reach and effectiveness of these programs, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) funded RAND, in partnership with the Law and Public Safety Education Network, to conduct a census of US youth law enforcement programs.

This publication, *Youth Law Enforcement Experience Programs as a Potential Recruitment Pipeline*, summarizes the findings of that census and draws guidance from it for law enforcement agencies implementing their own youth programs. Intended as a roadmap for successful founding, expansion, or continuation of such programs, and as a resource for networking among agencies, it describes key program features and considerations. This publication also provides resources for agencies seeking networking and mentorship from agencies with established youth engagement programs.

To view this publication, visit **https://tinyurl.com/29e2ntw4**

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Michael T. Rayburn

Many firearms instructors incorrectly state that the primary issue for the majority of shooters is "trigger control." Now, I'd like to pose a straightforward question to you. Although it may be somewhat lengthy, it remains a simple and direct contradiction.

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Mike Boyle

Whether we like it or not, sometimes the only way to maintain officer and public safety is through the application of force.

40 Concealment Holsters: An Essential Guide for Men and Women
Ralph Mroz and Natalie Strong

Whether off duty, working undercover, or simply fielding a question from a citizen or family member regarding CCW recommendations, this guide can offer helpful advice.

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22 Prone Restraint Cardiac Arrest: New Sudden Death Theory
John G. Peters, Jr., CLS, PSDS, Ph.D.

The theory of Prone Restraint Cardiac Arrest introduces a controversial viewpoint regarding the underlying reasons for sudden fatalities in individuals who have been involved in altercations with law enforcement, particularly those involving prone restraint.

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ON THE COVER

Selecting the ideal concealed carry holster is a highly personal decision. Fortunately, the variety of holsters available is vast and there's likely a CCW holster which works best for you, as well as for your family, friends and neighbors.

Various concealed carry holsters are pictured on the cover (beginning from the top right, down: Gould and Goodrich Gold Line Shoulder Holster/photo: huntingmark.com; Natalie Strong/photo: elegantandarmed.com; Clinger Stingray Holster/photo: clingerholsters.com; Alien Gear/aliengearholsters.com; Versacarry® Holster/photo: seeetz@unsplash

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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

A **Hungry** Dog Hunts Best

RAMESH NYBERG

The book my generation learned to read in the first grade went something like this: "This is Spot. See Spot run. Run, Spot, run!"

Then, there would be a big picture of the dog and the question, "Do you see Spot?"

The "book" is quite different now. It is compacted into an invisible computer code which goes, "Run, Spot! Now, go into the building with this geolocator, Spot. Once inside, send us back data in real time with your HD camera and sensors and tell us how many subjects are inside, if they are armed, and how many hostages or injured people might be there as well." And, Spot does it, unarmed and without hesitation. As you've already guessed, Spot doesn't need pay, praise, days off, and he only needs a few hours of "rest" to get charged back up.

We have Spot in the Miami-Dade Police Department now (that's really his name, too). He's pretty cool. He does all that stuff I wrote about in the previous paragraph and more. On his way inside the building, Spot can maneuver his way over rubble, fallen objects and other hazards, and he can withstand heat which human beings cannot. He won't even hesitate if he's shot at and being disabled by gunfire is no issue; he can be repaired. Spot is saving human lives from being in harm's way and can relay valuable intel to officers on scene before deciding to send in real flesh and blood. While Spot is busy scoping out the scene – whether it's a barricaded subject or a building collapse – a drone can be overhead, mapping out potential points of entrance and egress, and taking photos through windows to identify and assess threats inside the building from different vantage points.

This is just the tip of the AI/robotic iceberg, folks, and it's happening faster than most of us can keep up with. I've written about technology many times in this column and this one probably won't be the last, as it seems like every week there are advances which are mind-boggling in scope, as well as daunting in legal ambiguity. Drones are my favorite topic for now, because of the uproar they cause. Get this: We all know that everyone is concerned with school safety. School districts and the private sector have thrown an immense amount of resources into devising strategies and putting physical security measures in place. The school in which I work is a big campus with over 3,200 students. Cer-

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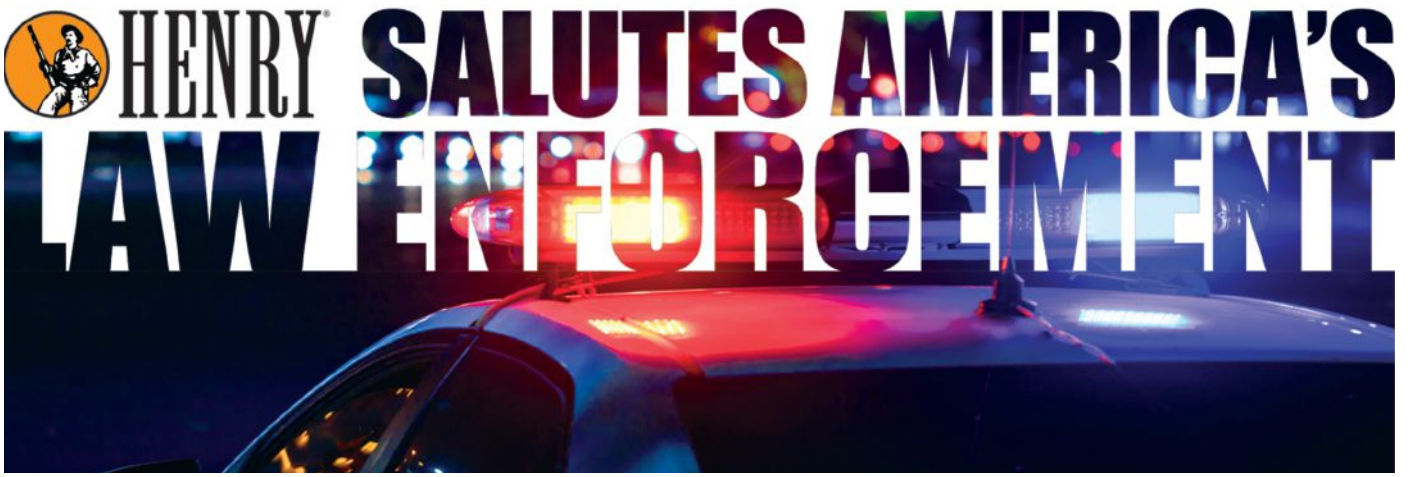

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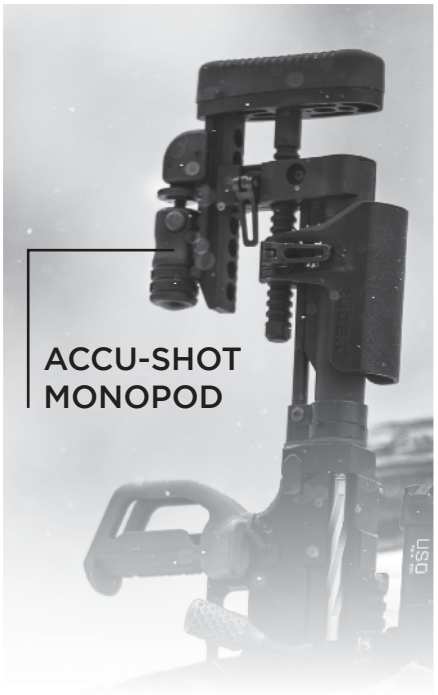

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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 6

tain areas are vulnerable and while you can't cover *every* little nook and cranny, I proposed an idea. Have a trained person fly a drone in various patrol patterns around the perimeter of the school grounds. If they spot a threat, or even a suspicious person approaching or attempting to access the perimeter, they can see it from the air and quickly notify everyone to lock down, while police can be dispatched to intercept the intruder. Yes, the drone would have to land and recharge, so you have two – one lands and the other launches immediately. Two security people can handle this switch quickly and then the one can continue flying and monitoring. What's the cost? It's about $4,000 for two good quality UAVs and *maybe* the hiring of an extra person. There are some very sophisticated systems now which can fly and autoland when their batteries run low and launch at the tap of a button. They are outfitted with hi-def cameras and an automatic tracking system (once motion is detected in a certain area) and even facial recognition, if you wanted to go that far.

My idea got shot down for one reason: The neighbors, I was told, would complain and be concerned with drones being able to see in their yards. I was aghast. The neighbors, I told them, should be thrilled that the school was using their tax money to provide security for the school *and* (albeit partially) their neighborhood! Why not send out a survey letter to all the surrounding residents to see how they feel? We can assure them that video footage will all be overwritten daily unless there is an incident or anything that might spur an investigation.

Grumbles, mumbles, and noncommittal…I will try again next year, though.

In law enforcement, we obviously face the same scrutiny and doubt, but on a much larger scale. Remember that old saying, "Damn cops are never around when you need them!" Oh, so now that we'd be "present," you seem to take issue with it. Artificial intelligence is not only here to stay, it is leaving behind those who aren't paying attention. I recently saw a video about military robotics which featured how "swarms" of drones can follow a leader and learn from one another, and other units which can act quickly upon real-time uploaded data describing what's going on at ground level. Chases? It would be a piece of cake. Lock onto the car and fly without the cost of a pilot or fuel.

Because history has taught us this lesson over and over again, the one thing we can be assured of is the criminal element has (or will) get their hands on the most advanced technology available before we do. Cybercrime is a perfect example. As we have with weapons, computers and the Internet, we're always playing catch up. As far back as 2014, the NIJ's National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center held a conference to discuss the rapidly blossoming world of robots and AI. Discussions included "the identification of technology needs, including policy and practice related to technology that would produce desirable futures, or avoid and mitigate the effects of undesirable futures."

It has a rather ominous ring to it, right? – *undesirable futures.* We've had our share of undesirable pasts and presents. The business of mitigating those effects is exactly what our jobs entail.

I believe in training *people* better, but I also think that we should break tradition and be at the cutting edge, ahead of those with bad intent. We should be spending money on having AI developers in our ranks, people who can think outside the box and create powerful, imaginative, *responsible* systems which anticipate undesirable events before they happen, and move swiftly to identify offenders when they do. I'm not the expert, but I know they are out there, and the fact that we have drones flying around *on Mars* tells me we can do anything we set our minds to.

You'll have to excuse me, but I have to walk the dog. "Come, Bolo."

Uh-oh, he just looked at me and said, "I'm sorry, Ramesh. I can't do that." **P&SN**

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years of police work. He lives in Miami and teaches criminal justice at a local high school. He also teaches regional law enforcement courses through Training Force, USA. He enjoys getting feedback from readers and can be reached at ramesh.nyberg@gmail.com. Also, Ram has written a new book, Badge, Tie and Gun: Life and Death Journeys of a Miami Detective*, which is available on Amazon in both Kindle eBook and paperback. You can find it by visiting* ***amazon.com/dp/B0CTQQKQTV***

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FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY

VSX Console Package for 2020-2024 Ford® Interceptor® Utility

The **VSX Console Package** from Havis offers a comprehensive solution specifically designed for 2020-2024 Ford Interceptor Utility vehicles. This console combines steel strength with lightweight polycarbonate construction for a rugged solution. It incorporates a heavy-duty "hood" for equipment mounting and a low profile for safety and side-to-side egress. Additionally, options include self-adjusting cup holders, flip-up armrest pads, lockable accessory pockets, articulating swivel arms, and a swing-up dash mount configurable for various devices.

havis.com

New Versatile Printer

PrintekMobile's **FP641** provides a 4" wide print solution for eCitations, parking tickets, and other 4" printing needs for vehicle, equipment mounted and hand carry applications.

With print speeds of 6 ips, the fastest in the market, the **FP641** provides officers with reliable printing, an easy to see slanted LCD display and access to onboard printer settings and status. Dual serrated tear edges allow you to mount the printer in any direction in a patrol car. With large function buttons, an easy to open paper compartment and center paper loading, the **FP641** also offers battery or vehicle-powered options to accommodate a wide variety of application uses.

The **FP641** series includes standard USB or dual radio BT/WiFi printers for receipt and label applications; is available with or without a battery; and is Windows®, Android and iOS Bluetooth® compatible.

printek.com

Setina Single Prisoner Transport "Max"

The **Setina Cargo Deck with Super Max Drawer** is engineered to optimize the functionality of police vehicles. It has been described as the ultimate solution for single prisoner transport, with interior cargo and electronic storage for both crew cab trucks and SUVs. Compatible with the Rear Window Barrier, this system includes components necessary for installation and operation: a Dual Polycarbonate Wall for a recessed panel front partition; a Radio Box for communication equipment; a Lower Cargo Deck with a rubber mat for stability; a Storage Box for equipment organization and security; and a single-piece Door Panel for the driver's side.

Additionally, optional accessories are available for further customization: an Upper Cargo Deck for extra storage; a TPO Single Replacement Seat with a center pull seat belt; an Aluminum Door Panel for the passenger side; a Window Barrier 2-piece Set with horizontal bars for increased security; and a single-piece Rear Window Barrier to protect the cargo area. Together, these components and accessories offer a comprehensive solution tailored to specific equipment organization and security needs.

setina.com

New SL Running Light

The new **SL Running Light** from SoundOff Signal offers versatile lengths and dual or split color functionality. It also comes with the option to select from three different colors in split mode. Its compact, extruded aluminum housing provides durability while blending seamlessly into its surroundings, ensuring weather resistance. Ideal for various applications including rocker panels, push bumpers, tailgates, headache racks, and brow lights, it enhances profile visibility at hazardous intersections. Compatible with bluePRINT®, it offers 12 LEDs per module and 69 flash patterns to suit different preferences. The new **SL Running Light** is available in lengths of 15", 50", 61.4", or 72.8", with dimensions of 1.09" H x .75" D.

soundoffsignal.com

New Prisoner Containment System

Gamber-Johnson has recently introduced a new and improved prisoner containment system for 2020+ Ford® PI Utilities. Their **Single Cell Partition** uses OEM seats and confines the detainee to one third of the second row seating, thus allowing the remaining two thirds to be used for equipment storage. It features solid steel construction, scratch-resistant polycarbonate windows and allows for full range of motion and positioning of the driver's seat

The **Partition** completes a fully secure prisoner containment system with a barrier between the second seat and the rear cargo area. It features a sliding poly window with mesh covering which provides abundant airflow and optimal visibility, while deterring escape attempts out the rear of the PI.

This year, Gamber-Johnson is celebrating 70 years of providing rugged, reliable and responsive products from its world headquarters in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

gamberjohnson.com

New Storage Bin from Tufloc

The **TufBox™ Storage Bin** is constructed of high-density plastic and features reflective safety tape. The bin is designed to fit under the TufBox Drawer, but can also be used as a stand-alone organizer in the rear of SUVs and cruisers. Dividers are included, allowing the bin to be compartmentalized. Optional hinged covers are also available.

tufloc.com

Securing the Majority of Long Guns with One Lock

The **Santa Cruz SC-6 Universal Gunlock** provides patrol vehicles with numerous locking capabilities, accommodating a wide range of long guns with Santa Cruz Gunlock LLC's extensive line of weapon retention systems since 1988.

The ratcheting locking diameter of the **Santa Cruz SC-6 Universal Gunlock**, coupled with the ability to easily slide the lock into various positions, enables officers to accommodate their specific firearm.

The **Santa Cruz SC-6 Universal Gunlock** offers both electronic and manual activation methods with each option functioning independently.

santacruzgunlocks.com

New Golight® SL Remote-Controlled Spotlight

The **Golight SL Remote-Controlled Spotlight** from SoundOff Signal has been designed for versatile illumination applications. With a rotation capability of 270° and a tilt range of 75°, it offers widespread coverage and can be programmed using bluePRINT® or operated independently. Built to withstand various environmental conditions, it is weatherproof, UV ray-resistant and saltwater-resistant. Its user-friendly remote control ensures convenient access.

The spotlight measures 6.14" L x 6.15" H x 5.08" D and comes with a vehicle-specific mount for either the driver or passenger side A-pillar. Operating within a temperature range of -40°F to +149°F, the spotlight features eight high flux LEDs, offering a raw lumens output of 3720. Constructed with an aluminum heat sink ring, polycarbonate lens and ASA housing, it combines durability with performance.

soundoffsignal.com

New Single Weapon Storage Unit

The **Stash** from Jotto Desk is a new single weapon storage unit designed for law enforcement vehicles like the Chevy Tahoe, Ford® PI Utility, Dodge Durango, and Charger. It can be opened using a universal key or one of two momentary switches, making access easy. Each **Stash** comes with a padded/nylon scabbard to protect the stored weapon.

It's particularly useful for agencies which need to secure rifles when vehicles are off-duty. This addresses concerns about keeping weapons away from children at home and offers a more affordable alternative to traditional cargo boxes. Unlike bulky storage boxes which take up a lot of space, the **Stash** is compact, leaving room for an officer's cargo in the vehicle's rear area. This helps agencies avoid spending excessive amounts on securing items like stuffed animals, flares, accident scene tape, and paperwork, as the **Stash** focuses on securing what truly needs protection.

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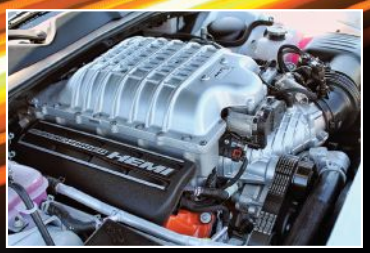
THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Obituary for a Legend



SERGEANT JAMES POST

She was conceived in secrecy during World War II, but was not introduced to the public until 1951 when she was received with instant adoration. She soon became a legend, unlike anything seen before or since.

Sadly, we lost her in 2024, leaving behind a legion of brokenhearted fans, the majority with motor oil in their veins and grease under their fingernails. She died from a cabal of politics; global warming hype; bovine flatulence; misinformed do-gooders; foreign greed; a silver-haired condiment czar; a European teenage doom and gloom prognosticator; and, *say it ain't so*, Reddy Kilowatt. She is the Chrysler® HEMI® V-8 engine.

The HEMI is so named because of its distinctive configuration of overhead hemispherical combustion chambers which place the spark plug at the center of the valve cover and the chamber to provide a strong flame. They are more sensitive to octane ratings, requiring higher grades to prevent pre-detonation.

There were three generations of HEMI engines developed by Chrysler: Gen One (1951 to 1958); Gen Two (1964 to 1971); and Gen Three (2003 to present).

The earlier WWII reference describes Chrysler's first experimental HEMI engine, an inverted V-16 for the P-47 Thunderbolt fighter. The P-47 was already in service with a Pratt & Whitney radial engine, but, in spite of successful trials in 1945, the HEMI-powered Thunderbolts were never put into production or saw combat because the war was winding down. *Chrysler and Continental did join up to develop a V-12 HEMI which was used in the M47 Patton tank.*

GEN ONE – BIRTH OF A LEGEND

The engineering success of both the V-16 and V-12 engines of WWII ultimately led to Gen One, the first V-8 HEMI, sold in the 1951 model year, in Chrysler, Imperial, DeSoto, and Dodge cars with valve covers proudly bearing the names, "FirePower," "Firedome" and "Red Ram."

331 – Chrysler classified their HEMI engines by piston displacement (Cubic Inches or CI), not horsepower, and that system continued through Gen Three. The first engine was rated at 331 CI and was used until 1955.

354 – The next upgrade took the HEMI to 354 CI and was built for the 1957 Dodge trucks, bearing the moniker "Power Giant V-8."

392 – The next modifications took the HEMI to 392 CI and was available in two HPs, 325 and 375, depending on carburation (a single 4BBL or dual 4BBLs). An experimental Fuel Injection (FI) was attempted; however, due to only primitive FI control computers being available at the time, 15 of the 16 cars built with FI were recalled and the systems replaced with carburetors. The 392 engines were optional in Chryslers and DeSotos.

GEN TWO (OMG) – THE 426

The hemispherical head design was revived in 1964 and they were the first engines actually named HEMI, a name Chrysler had wisely trademarked earlier. The 426 designation was the actual cubic inch displacement and was nicknamed the "elephant engine" because of its power, heavy weight and humongous physical dimensions.

The 426 was originally built exclusively for NASCAR and raced in a 1964 Plymouth. It was not available

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Continued from page 12

The 426 "Street HEMI®" was available from 1966 through 1971 in Dodges such as this 1970 Super Bee.

to the general public and, for this reason, in 1965, it was banned due to NASCAR rules. Chrysler quickly put HEMIs in special versions of the 1965 Dodge Dart, Plymouth Fury and Dodge Coronet which were sold to the public, reinstating them in the good graces of NASCAR. In 1966, Chrysler introduced the "Street HEMI" for use in these models, but with lower compression than the NASCAR and drag racing "Race HEMI," with dual 4BBL inline carbs and cast iron exhaust manifolds. In this era, "crate engines" were born and car guys with enough cash could buy their own 426 in a box from Mopar®.

The 426 "Street HEMI" was available from 1966 through 1971 in Dodges and Plymouths, in popular models bearing creative names like Charger, Super Bee, Super Stock, Daytona, Super Bird, Road Runner, Barracuda, and Challenger which today are fetching amazing prices at collector auctions.

The 426 HEMI became popular in drag racing at both NHRA and AHRA tracks (1/8 and ¼ mi), in addition to NASCAR. Drag racing cars were usually simple body-less "rail" dragsters, with engines either mounted fore or aft of the drivers. They were classified by the fuel used – either high-octane pump gas, nitrous oxide or alcohol duratives.

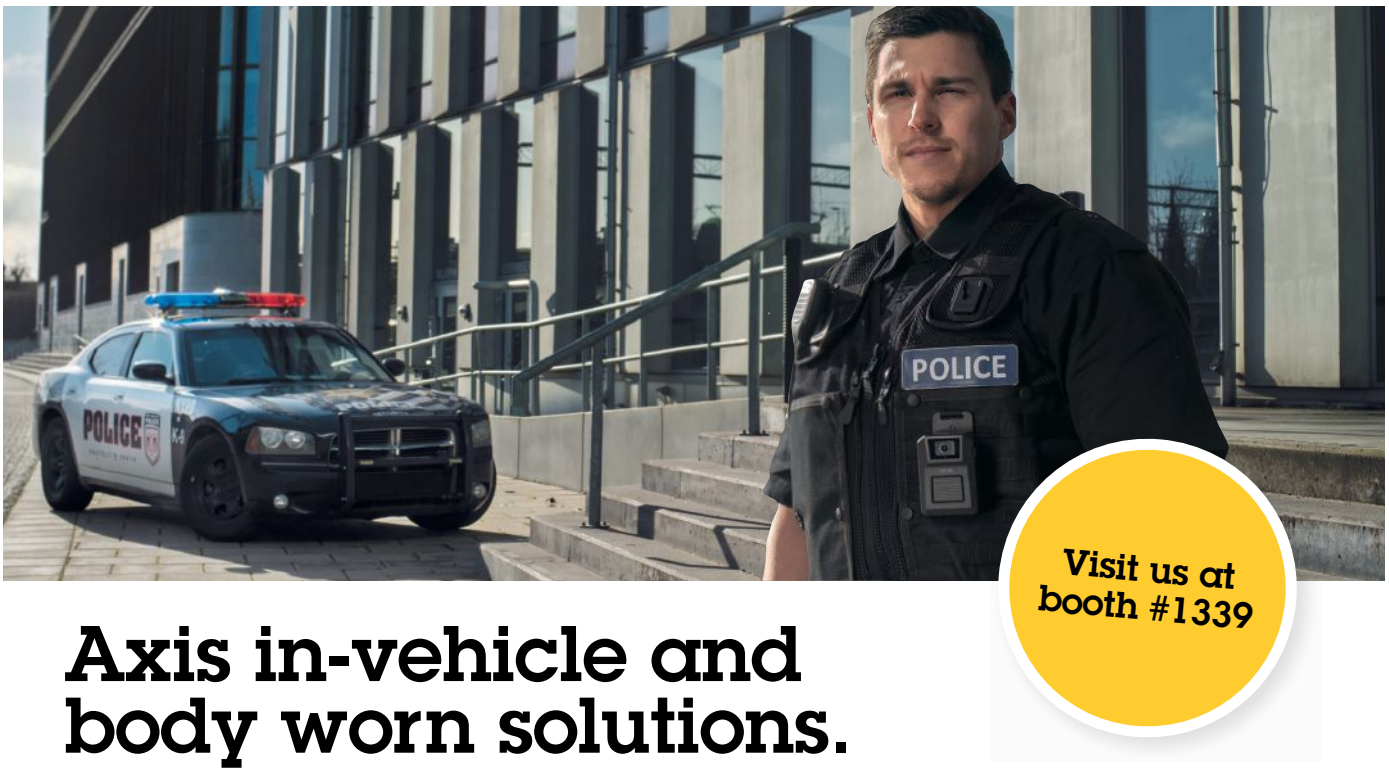
Full-bodied race cars which were modified with altered wheel bases and lightened bodies were often called "funny cars." *There were also factory sponsored drag race teams, such as Sox & Martin and the Ramchargers.*

Drag strips with bleachers and timing stands attracted thousands of fans. Innovative owners sold "pit passes" to fans, allowing them access into the area where race cars were prepped or repaired. Enterprising strip owners often opened at night for "challenge races," where, for a minimal fee, we could race whomever we chose. *This became an all-new version of "date night."*

GEN THREE – MDS AND THE LX PLATFORM

The 5.7L HEMI was first released in the 2003 Dodge Ram pickups and engine ratings were switched from SAE to liters. The new HEMI introduced a unique coil-on-plug (distributor-less) ignition system, utilizing coil packs on each spark plug and two plugs per cylinder, resulting in a more consistent combustion and reduced emissions.

5.7 – In 2005, the 5.7L was mated to Chrysler's new LX platform and the performance world changed forever. It became the sole V-8 engine available for



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the Chrysler 300 and Dodge Magnum.

In 2006, resurrecting an iconic nameplate, the Dodge Charger was added to the HEMI lineup. Unfortunately, diehard Mopar fans were disappointed because it was released as a four door so Chrysler could again compete in the police car field. But, in 2008, the nostalgia fan's patience finally paid off with the release of an all-new Dodge Challenger.

That first 5.7L (345 CI) HEMI in the Ram delivered 345 hp, but, when added to cars, it had a couple new exciting features – one historical and one purely ornamental. First, Chrysler introduced a dramatic fuel saving device called the Multi-Displacement System (MDS) which shut off two cylinders on each bank under light load which improved fuel economy dramatically by smoothly switching the big V-8 from eight to four cylinders. MDS engages automatically up to at least 75 mph and even when using cruise control.

A purely aesthetic addition to the 5.7L was a plastic engine shroud which covered the fuel induction system, plug wiring and heads. The cover was emblazoned with two prominent "HEMIs" in two inch block letters. Car guys loved these covers and soon they were customized with pinstripes, artwork and painted in body colors.

In 2008, the long wait by enthusiasts for a touch of nostalgia was rewarded with the launch of the brand-new Dodge Challenger.

The 5.7L would undergo several revisions in 2009, including tweaked cylinder heads (to increase flow) and reworked intake manifolds. Engines mated to six-speed manual transmissions did not include MDS. These mods increased horsepower ratings as follows: Chrysler C – 363 hp; Charger R/T – 370 hp; and Challenger R/T auto – 372 hp and, with a six-speed manual trans, 375 hp.

6.1L – At this time, a more potent HEMI was also available in SRT® packages. The optional 6.1L version produced 425 hp which was accomplished with an increased bore and stroke, a revised coolant channel, a forged crankshaft, lighter pistons, strengthened rods,

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Continued from page 15

and a cast aluminum intake manifold.

6.2L – For 2015, Chrysler introduced an all-new, high performance SUPERCHARGED variant of the HEMI, the Hellcat, named after the Grumman F6F fighter of the same name. Rated at 707 hp, this was the most powerful production engine ever put in an American muscle car.

In 2017, Mopar announced the Hellcat engine was available as a crate engine, known as the "Hellcrate." A Challenger Redeye model, with a whopping 797 hp, was released in 2019, and it was followed by a Charger Redeye version in 2021.

But, the lead foot engineers at Mother Mopar also built another variant in 2018 named the Dodge SRT Demon, a bona fide street worthy race car packing 808 hp (on 91 octane pump gas) and 840 hp (on 100 octane racing fuel). A functional hood scoop was added and it came with a pair of racing slicks and rear seat delete.

THE COPS LOSE AGAIN

Another victim of the HEMI assassination is American cops with their loss of the great Dodge Charger Pursuit police car (2006-2024) which was collateral damage in the stampede to build EVs. Like the terminations (by builder) of the Chevy Caprice 9C1 (1996) and the Ford® CVPI (2011), the Charger died long before her time. And, the real tragedy is the only people mourning the Charger Pursuit's demise are our police because she was the last true RWD, 4DR, V-8 American cruiser.

Like the HEMI, the Charger police package production was divided into three generations, Gen One (2006-2011), Gen Two (2011-2015) and Gen Three (2015-2024). Of course, there were safety and performance improvements and style changes throughout the Charger Cop Car run, with the most significant addition being the option of AWD in 2015, making the Charger a true year-round police car.

Although I never had the opportunity to drive any of the three popular makes of American cruisers above during my career, I have been fortunate to own retired models of each brand and I found them all to be great cars. However, my favorite will always be the Charger. Yes, I'm a HEMI fan; I've owned eight and still own three and they'll have to pull the fobs out of my cold, dead hands.

ADIOS AND FAREWELL

Legend seems like an insignificant title for the Chrysler HEMI…like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the HEMI's reincarnations and longevity are nothing short of amazing. There were several versions of the HEMI, with varying horsepowers, built right up to her 2024 termination, but, in her life of 73 years (minus two breaks of nonproduction), she – and Chrysler – continued and persevered through three owner/partner/merger changes (Daimler, FIAT®, Stellantis); three US government "rescue loans"; UAW strikes; the unibody fiasco and numerous frame and platform changes; a boycott by gay rights groups; asbestos lawsuits; bankruptcies; the dubious "gas crisis"; sales which charted like the US economy; and the loss of several popular marquees; and, still, she soldiered on. Through the decades, the famous Pentastar emblem (created in 1962) still stands proudly at the top of her corporate headquarters in Auburn Hills, MI.

But the HEMI's true legacy was penned in oil by her loyal fans from back in the day…the owners; the builders; the race attendees; and those of us who lost money on every trade-in or suffered blown engines, hellacious insurance rates, clear coat peel, and rust. Mopar folks paid the price with patience, loyalty and pride and believed she would live forever. RIP P&SN

James Post wore several different LE badges for 27 years and has written about police cars for P&SN *for 25 years. He always appreciates your comments, suggestions and even complaints. He can be reached at kopkars@arkansas.net.*

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The 360˚ turning capability of the **FTTS** is able to present "good guy" and "bad guy" targets unpredictably, forcing trainees to make quick, accurate use-of-force decisions.

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The **ChamberSnake**™, invented by a retired police firearms instructor who grew tired of recruits pointing (possibly) loaded handguns in his class, provides the original and most effective Chamber Safe Indicator (CSI). Constructed from durable nylon 6/6 plastic, this chamber blocker features a prominent "electric yellow" strip which extends from the muzzle, providing immediate visual confirmation of the firearm's unloaded and safe status. It's also flexible enough to bend so the weapon can be stored in its case. Compared to other Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI), **ChamberSnake** allows for dry-firing without disengagement and eliminates the risk of accidental dislodgement during handling. Unlike snap caps or dummy rounds, **ChamberSnake** remains engaged in the weapon, ensuring continuous safety. It is available in most calibers and configurations for handguns, rifles and shotguns.

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BlueRidge Armor, in partnership with Brotherhood for Disruptive Innovation (B4DI), is capable of developing and delivering extensive end-user training covering all levels of proficiency. Their courses are developed through decades of operational experience and leadership and include human performance considerations, exigent problem-solving, critical thinking, and proven end-user techniques.

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Students will tackle complex human performance-based micro-drills and scenarios, guided by certified state, federal and military instructors, covering topics such as threat assessment, multiple threat engagement, shield/armor deployment, CQB, operational planning, leadership, and firearms training.

SWAT members, critical incident responders, patrol officers, and their supervisors have benefited from their training which has been deployed across the spectrum of critical law enforcement and military mission sets to include managing barricaded suspects, active shooters, high risk warrant service, hostage resolution, and critical incident response training.

Additionally, they are capable of developing and deploying specialized courses which include various medical challenges; casualty rescue; event reporting; use-of-force statement preparation; and experiential learning in classrooms, ranges, virtual environments, and, in the next 12 months, mixed reality.

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These **dummies** serve three vital purposes. Firstly, they enable year-round practice, allowing officers to hone skills at their convenience. Secondly, they reduce training costs by enabling self-practice followed by assessment by a training officer. Lastly, they minimize injuries during training, safeguarding both officers and department resources.

Investing in **training dummies** ensures ongoing skill development, cost efficiency and injury prevention for law enforcement agencies of any size.

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MILO RANGE

MILO **Ready Ranges** are complete, adaptable shooting ranges housed within shipping containers or custom-built modules. The **Ready Range**'s design supports extension from 40 to 100 meters in length and can accommodate one to 20 or more firing lanes.

These ranges are scalable, allowing for customization in line with budgetary constraints and training requirements.

The **Ready Range**'s construction allows for dismantling, transporting and repositioning the live-fire training set whenever necessary. This ensures that the units remain a viable asset, unaffected by budget reductions or changes in training locations.

The HVAC system is designed to maintain a steady airflow and negative pressure, effectively removing lead, smoke and other airborne particles from the vicinity of each shooter. The air is filtered through a HEPA filter rack which captures 95% to 99.97% of particulates before being released outside, thereby complying with OSHA, NIOSH and EPA standards for air quality.

milorange.com

MILO RANGE

MILO Range has recently introduced **MILO VR**, a virtual reality solution featuring realistic environments and mirroring real-world scenarios. Designed to enhance critical thinking, verbal communication and de-escalation techniques while refining decision-making skills, **MILO VR** seamlessly aligns with mission-specific training objectives, providing a flexible tailored solution.

Users can integrate **MILO VR** with existing MILO Range simulators, allowing the MILO Range system to focus on physical training skills like marksmanship and defensive tactics, while **MILO VR** handles intellectual exercises such as de-escalation and cultural awareness.

Similar to MILO Range simulators, **MILO VR** offers adaptive learning through branching scenarios, allowing instructors to adjust situations based on trainees' responses for a personalized learning experience. With pre- and post-scenario debriefing capabilities utilizing After-Action Review (AAR) tools, instructors can thoroughly analyze trainee performance.

Supporting a wide range of tools and devices, both lethal and less-lethal, including pistols, rifles, flashlights, batons, and CEW devices, **MILO VR** enhances its versatility and applicability in various training scenarios.

milorange.com

T4E

T4E has introduced its latest innovation, the **T4E Walther® PDP Paintball Pistol**. Designed in collaboration with Walther Arms, the **T4E Walther PDP Paintball Pistol** combines the reliability of a trusted firearm manufacturer and T4E's advanced technology to provide realism and effectiveness in training scenarios.

It accurately represents the Walther PDP in weight, dimensions, ergonomics, and compatibility with many duty holsters; features semiautomatic operation for rapid and accurate fire; simulates real-world scenarios; and its integrated CO2 system ensures the need for frequent refills.

It is compatible with T4E's range of training projectiles, including paintballs, rubber balls and powder balls which offers versatility for training environments and objectives.

t4eguns.com

NRA SCHOOL SHIELD PROGRAM

Every year, our nation's schools are charged with the responsibility of ensuring the safety of approximately 55 million elementary and secondary school students across various educational institutions.

Families and communities rely on schools to safeguard their children from various threats, emphasizing the importance of establishing a secure learning environment.

Recognizing that school security is a multifaceted issue devoid of a singular solution, the **NRA School Shield Program** is dedicated to tackling the complexities of school safety. This commitment addresses various aspects of school security, including but not limited to implementing best practices in security infrastructure, utilizing technology, enhancing personnel training, and shaping policy.

Through this comprehensive approach, the **School Shield Program** endeavors to engage communities and empower leaders to work collaboratively work.

Download the available guide full of important information and helpful sample questions to help start the conversation with local school leaders about how to work together to protect our children.

nraschoolshield.org

NRA COMMUNITY SHIELD PROGRAM

Like schools, houses of worship have increasingly become targets for those seeking to instill fear and cause harm. The act of congregating for religious purposes makes these places vulnerable to attacks. Many religious leaders feel uncertain about how to enhance safety against unauthorized individuals or violence. Even small adjustments can significantly improve attendee protection if focused on the right aspects.

Building on its National School Shield program, the NRA has introduced **Community Shield**, a complementary initiative tailored to assist houses of worship in conducting vulnerability assessments. This training aims to strengthen safety measures against violent threats, reduce the likelihood of attacks, and formulate response plans for any potential incidents. **Community Shield** is designed for the average individual without law enforcement experience, though law enforcement personnel are encouraged to participate. Topics covered include understanding vulnerability; strategies for mitigation; developing intrusion response procedures; and considerations regarding arming attendees, if deemed necessary.

For more information, E-mail the **Community Shield** program at **communityshield@nrahq.org**

VIRTRA®

VirTra, Inc. recently revealed the **V-XR®** virtual reality training system. Unlike conventional marksmanship trainers, the **V-XR** prioritizes vital soft skills like communication, de-escalation and identifying mental health conditions such as autism spectrum disorders.

V-XR trains using three modes: Educate, Experience and Engage. Each mode offers comprehensive training on various topics. Enter "Educate" mode for enriched lesson plans with voiceovers, images and videos. "Experience" immerses users in scenarios within a virtual 360º environment. Finally, "Engage" allows multipath interactions with volumetric video characters.

The **V-XR** system employs characters captured using VirTra's volumetric studio, the V3™. Far more realistic than CGI "video game" models, these three-dimensional human characters feature subtle facial expressions and micro-cues.

In related news, VirTra announced a new $5.9M prototype contract with Microsoft's IVAS program for the US Army. The order includes VirTra's simulated recoil hardware, such as bolt kits, magazines and high pressure air fill stations.

virtra.com/overview/v-xr

INDUSTRY NEWS

HARDWIRE Awarded Prestigious FBI Ballistic Shield Contracts

Hardwire LLC, a leading provider of advanced ballistic protection solutions, announced its recent contract awards from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for the provision of high quality ballistic shields. Hardwire, in partnership with Bethel Industries, swept all four contracts awarded by the FBI for the ballistic shields, totaling $27,000,000 and affirming its position as the trusted partner for critical protective gear for federal law enforcement. The contracts began February 1, 2024, and April 1, 2024.

These contracts are a significant milestone for Hardwire as they underscore the company's commitment to delivering state-of-the-art protective equipment to those who safeguard our communities. These shields, known for their exceptional durability and reliability, are essential tools for law enforcement personnel facing high-risk situations. Under the terms of the contracts, Hardwire and Bethel will supply both pistol-rated and rifle-rated shields.

The shield technology represents a groundbreaking leap forward in law enforcement technology. Spearheading this technological advancement is the use of

Hardwire's patented Turning Block, an armor method which effectively flips the bullet using its own rotational energy and causing it to land sideways in the back of the shield. This innovation results in a shield with never before seen multi-hit protection against clips of armor piercing automatic gunfire with rounds stopping in the shield as close as a half inch apart.

Additionally, via these contracts, Hardwire introduced the Triclops, a periscope system which offers visual acuity while providing full protection for the officer's head. The Triclops is much lighter than a ballistic window and allows users to peek around corners or over fences without exposing themselves to gunfire. It enables precise aiming of weapons through an optically perfect reflection of the officer's sights, regardless of type, and works seamlessly with night vision goggles. The Triclops accommodates right- or left-handed users and is electronic-free, ensuring 100% reliability without the need for batteries, boot-up or latency.

These innovative designs enhance law enforcement effectiveness by minimizing the risk of injury to law enforcement officers while ensuring maximum protection. "The clean sweep of the FBI awards is evidence that we listen to our customers and our engineers innovate based on their requirements," said George Tunis, CEO of Hardwire LLC. "Putting ourselves into our customers' shoes is how we make superior products that perform in the mission. We are honored to deliver safety and security to the FBI through scientific innovation."

Hardwire's ballistic shields are renowned for their lightweight construction, superior ballistic performance and ergonomic design, making them indispensable tools for law enforcement officers operating in dynamic environments.

For more information about Hardwire and its innovative ballistic protection solutions, visit **hardwirellc.com**

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Prone Restraint Cardiac Arrest: New Sudden Death Theory

The theory of Prone Restraint Cardiac Arrest introduces a controversial viewpoint regarding the underlying reasons for sudden fatalities in individuals who have been involved in altercations with law enforcement, particularly those involving prone restraint.

JOHN G. PETERS, JR., CLS, PSDS, PH.D.
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Dr. Alon Steinberg, a cardiologist, has formulated and released a theory concerning instances of sudden death following struggles involving prone restraint. His concept, termed "prone restraint cardiac arrest," challenges what some refer to as the misconception of "restraint asphyxia." Initially introduced in the medical literature in 2021, this theory gained traction. Late last year, Dr. Steinberg presented his findings at the annual conferences of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc. (IPICD).

Most public safety officers, including EMTs and paramedics, attorneys, news reporters, and the public have heard about "restraint or positional asphyxia." In short, a struggling individual is often redirected into a prone position by officers who then apply temporary pressure on the person's back and shoulder areas until restraints are applied. The amount of applied downward pressure on the back area is often a function of how violently the person is struggling, bucking or twisting their body.

Asphyxia and Asphyxiation

Asphyxia refers to the body not getting enough oxygen and can be life-threatening. Asphyxiation is a derivative of the Greek *asphyxia* which means without pulse, indicating the person has died due to a lack of sufficient oxygen. Among the many categories of asphyxia are *positional, postural, traumatic* (compressional)*, mechanical,* and *restraint.* There are several other categories as well; however, these are the ones most commonly used in officer-associated deaths.

Air Hunger

During capture, control and restraint, an individual who is in a prone position and struggling is often perceived by officers as attempting to physically escape and/or avoid being restrained. Another possible explanation focuses on "air hunger" when the individual is struggling to inhale more oxygen or is having difficulty exhaling carbon dioxide. Regardless of the reason, on rare occasions, struggles have stopped suddenly because individuals became nonresponsive and then died. Medical examiners often rule the manner of death as "homicide" (death at the hands of another) and, because the officers involved had put their weight on the person's back area, a finding of restraint asphyxia is often made, even though other indications of asphyxia are missing.

Fleeing, Fighting and Struggling

Few people will disagree that placing too much weight onto a person's back or chest area can impede inhalation, exhalation and/or ventilation. *Compressional asphyxia* is real and medical examiners have often misapplied it to sudden deaths involving officers who had placed their knee(s) on a violently struggling person's body. Dr. Steinberg's "Prone Restraint Cardiac Arrest" theory is a revitalizing,

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Continued from page 22

The theory posits that intense physical activity may induce metabolic acidosis and related health complications which, along with prone restraint and insufficient ventilation, could precipitate cardiac arrest.

though controversial, approach for explaining a person's sudden death following a struggle with officers and/or possible prone restraint.

Officers sprinting after a fleeing subject or wrestling with a subject for more than a minute require additional oxygen. So, too, does the resisting subject. Fleeing and fighting with officers are forms of exercise, as is struggling to restrain a resisting individual. During and after a struggle, the involved individuals often inhale and exhale with more frequency because they are experiencing *dysfunctional breathing* and are attempting to correct it. While Dr. Steinberg does not dismiss breathing, his focus is on sudden cardiac arrest following a struggle.

Fleeing, fighting with officers and/or then violently struggling during the restraint process, and/or against the restraints are physical activities which require more oxygen. Stress, anxiety, stimulant drugs, alcohol, and so forth, when added to these physical activities, creates a demand for more oxygen and may create metabolic acidosis which Steinberg (2021) and Weedn, Steinberg and Speth (2022) claim make an individual hyperventilate. Hyperventilation may cause people to say, "I can't breathe" or use their accessory and intercostal muscles to help breathe.

B = V+R

The formula for adequate breathing is *ventilation + respiration*, with adults breathing between 12 and 20 breaths per minute. *Ventilation* is the mechanical process of moving air into and from the lungs (inhalation and exhalation). *Respiration* is how oxygen diffuses from the air into the lungs and how carbon dioxide is transferred from the blood into the lungs and then discharged into the air. This invisible to the eye process is called *gas exchange.*

System Issue

The functions of the human body are interconnected creating a complex network of body systems. When one part of the system is experiencing difficulty, it will affect one or more parts of the system. A fleeing or struggling person may experience "air hunger" and a decrease in *ventilation*. Add "exercise" (fleeing and/or violent struggle) to the equation and suddenly the person is experiencing metabolic acidosis (drop in pH levels). The outcome can be fatal.

Prone Restraint Cardiac Death

Dr. Steinberg theorizes that increased physical activity which may create metabolic acidosis and associated medical issues, coupled with a person being placed into the prone position, can facilitate cardiac arrest resulting from metabolic acidosis which is negatively impacted by inadequate ventilation and a decrease in carbon dioxide. Similar to a Venn diagram, these variables overlap and, according to his theory, can produce a cardiac arrest. Unlike a heart attack which is a "plumbing" issue, cardiac arrest is an "electrical" issue. The heart suddenly stops.

Summary

Many public safety defense lawyers and expert witnesses believe officer-associated prone restraint deaths will be one of the two top litigation areas for the next decade (mind-body disconnect is number two). If Dr. Steinberg's theory is proven to be scientifically correct, restraint asphyxia will no longer be a primary focus or finding by medical examiners except in those cases where it is appropriate. Recently, in a midwestern civil lawsuit, the plaintiff argued "positional/restraint asphyxia," because the officers held down the person using their hands and knees. Dr. Steinberg argued it was a prone restraint cardiac arrest and not "restraint asphyxia" which caused the death, not "asphyxia" as opined by the other plaintiff's medical experts.

Share this article with others including defense counsel and medical examiners so they will learn about the theory of prone restraint cardiac arrest. Give a copy to law enforcement restraint and defensive tactics trainers so they can incorporate it into their lesson plans and educate their learners about it. When you think about it, prone restraint cardiac arrest appears to shift the emphasis onto the decedent's lifestyle, physical condition, etc. and away from the public safety officers.

Remember: Sudden compliance by a struggling subject may not be cooperation, but a medical emergency. A person can transition from being a suspect to a patient in a short amount of time. Be prepared to give CardioPulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), know how to use and apply an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), and ask for medical assistance. Adopt and use the P.E.P. capture, control and restraint system developed and taught by retired Huntington Beach (CA) Police Department Lieutenant John Domingo to avoid placing knees on a subject's back which can lead to claims of "positional/restraint asphyxia." **P&SN**

*John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D., serves as president of the Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc. and Executive Director for the Americans With Effective Law Enforcement, Inc. An experienced instructional designer, he developed the Institute's tuition-free User-Level "Recognizing and Managing Abnormal Breathing" online program (**ipicd.com**). A judicially qualified expert witness, he has testified in federal, state and international courts.*

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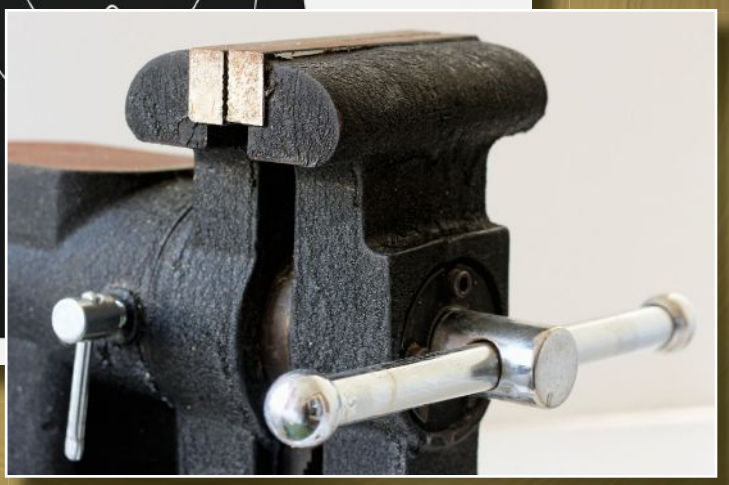

Trigger Control Is Not the Answer

MICHAEL T. RAYBURN

Many firearms instructors incorrectly state that the primary issue for the majority of shooters is "trigger control." Now, I'd like to pose a straightforward question to you. Although it may be somewhat lengthy, it remains a simple and direct contradiction.

Imagine this scenario: I take your handgun and line it up on target on the range – physically line the gun up so that, when you pull the trigger, the bullet will go straight into the target, dead center. After aligning your firearm, I secure your handgun in a robust metal vise which is fastened to a sturdy metal table. This table is anchored to the range's concrete floor. The gun remains aimed at the target, yet it is immobilized to prevent any movement.

Now, if I were to put my finger inside the trigger guard and pull the trigger, where would your round go?

It would go into the target, right? Where else could it possibly go? If I were to take a pencil and use that to pull the trigger, where would your round go? If I were to take a long piece of string and tie it to the trigger and then use that string to pull the trigger rearward (as long as the gun didn't move), where would your bullet end up? It would go into the target, right?

You Really Need to "Get a Grip"

So, the central question is: What does "trigger control" have to do with anything? It's all about the grip – that vise-like grip you need to have on your handgun when shooting. Grip the gun as if your life depended on it, because someday it just might.

Understand that this "vise-like grip" is simple and easy to do. While the gun is still in the holster, grab the gun firmly with your strong hand. You want to be as high up on the backstrap of the gun as possible before the gun even comes out of the holster. You want to have a solid grip on the gun before it comes out of the holster because you may have to start shooting at the assailant as soon as the gun clears your holster. Hip shooting and shooting as you bring the gun up are practical (and, at times, essential) strategies, particularly when in close quarters.

If you have the time and the distance and you want to enable a solid two-handed grip, as you draw the gun and start to bring it over to the centerline of your body, you'll bring your off hand over and obtain a two-handed grip. This is done by bringing your two hands together like two pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, with your thumbs forward.

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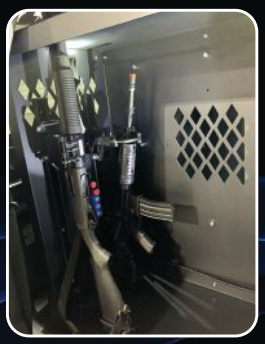

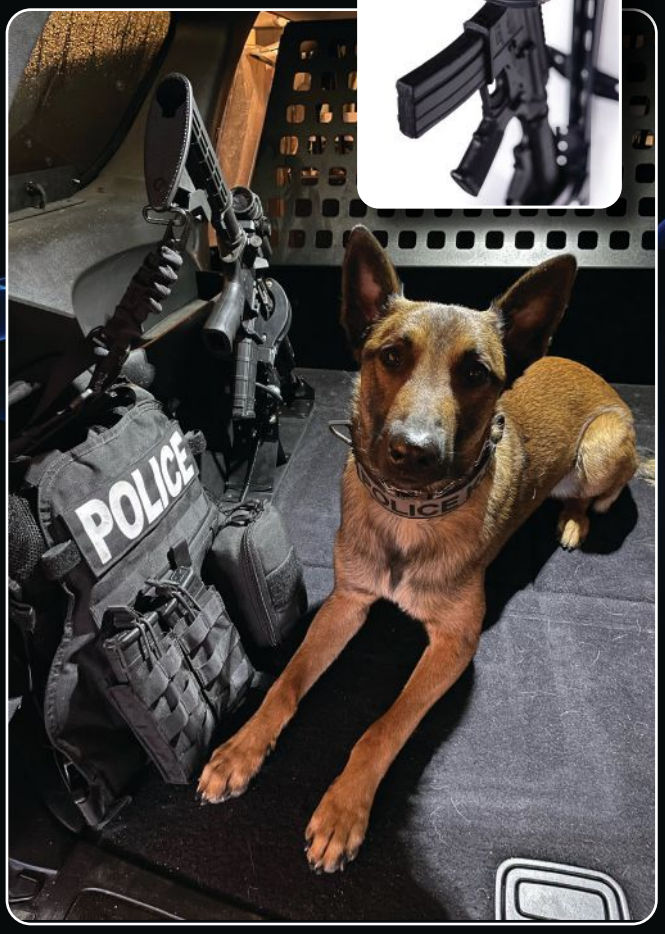

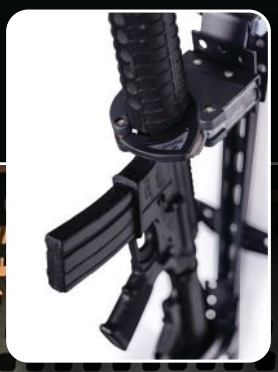

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Some firearms instructors will say, "You have too much finger on the trigger," or you have "too little finger on the trigger." How many of you have heard this one before, "Place the middle of the first pad of your index finger on the trigger"? In a gunfight, with the bad guy most likely already shooting at you first, according to FBI statistics, are you really going to be worried about how much of your finger is on the trigger?

Trigger Control?

Skeptics can offer any number of excuses or contradictions, but it doesn't change the fact that the grip is the most important part of handgun shooting and, in reality, there is no such thing as "trigger control." The trigger is a mechanical device. It's designed to go backwards and forwards, not side to side or in any other direction. If it does, there's something wrong with your firearm and you need to have it checked out by the armorer.

Shooters need to have a vise-like grip on the handgun, so that it doesn't move while they shoot. Of course, there's going to be recoil, but the tighter you grip your handgun, the less recoil you're going to experience. That directly relates to being able to get back on target quicker for that second, third, or fourth round.

While it's not required to hold your handgun with a tense, white-knuckled grip, a firmer hold will universally result in more closely grouped shots.

As stated in the beginning of this article, a number of firearms instructors will boldly claim that "trigger control is the number one problem with all shooters." In fact, the number one problem with most shooters isn't the grip, either, although it plays a large part of the problem. The number one problem with most shooters is anticipating the recoil of the firearm.

Anticipation

It's called the Pre-Ignition Push, or PIP. In that split second before the bullet leaves the barrel, you push the gun, either to one side or the other or up or down. If you're pushing it off to the side, it will most likely be to your offside. Why? Because your grip on the handgun is not as strong on that side; it's just that simple.

Again, that's why you need to have that vise-like grip on the gun, so that it doesn't move while shooting. Anticipating the recoil of the firearm, or PIP, is done subconsciously. Your brain is saying, okay, get ready for that big bang and you anticipate the recoil of the gun by pushing it off to one side or the other, or pushing it down or pushing it up which is sometimes called "heeling the firearm."

It has absolutely nothing to do with how much finger you have (or don't have) on the trigger. Or, how fast or how slow you pull the trigger. Some will proclaim, "Well, tell a sniper to pull the trigger fast and hard and see what happens." Shooting a target at 300

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yards with a sniper rifle is completely different than firing a handgun at a few feet which is the typical distance for the vast majority of officer involved shootings.

Do you practice sniper techniques with your handgun at three feet, five feet, ten feet, or 21 feet? Since the vast majority of officers are killed every year at 21 feet or less, why are you training to be a sniper at that distance, with a handgun of all things?

No Time for That

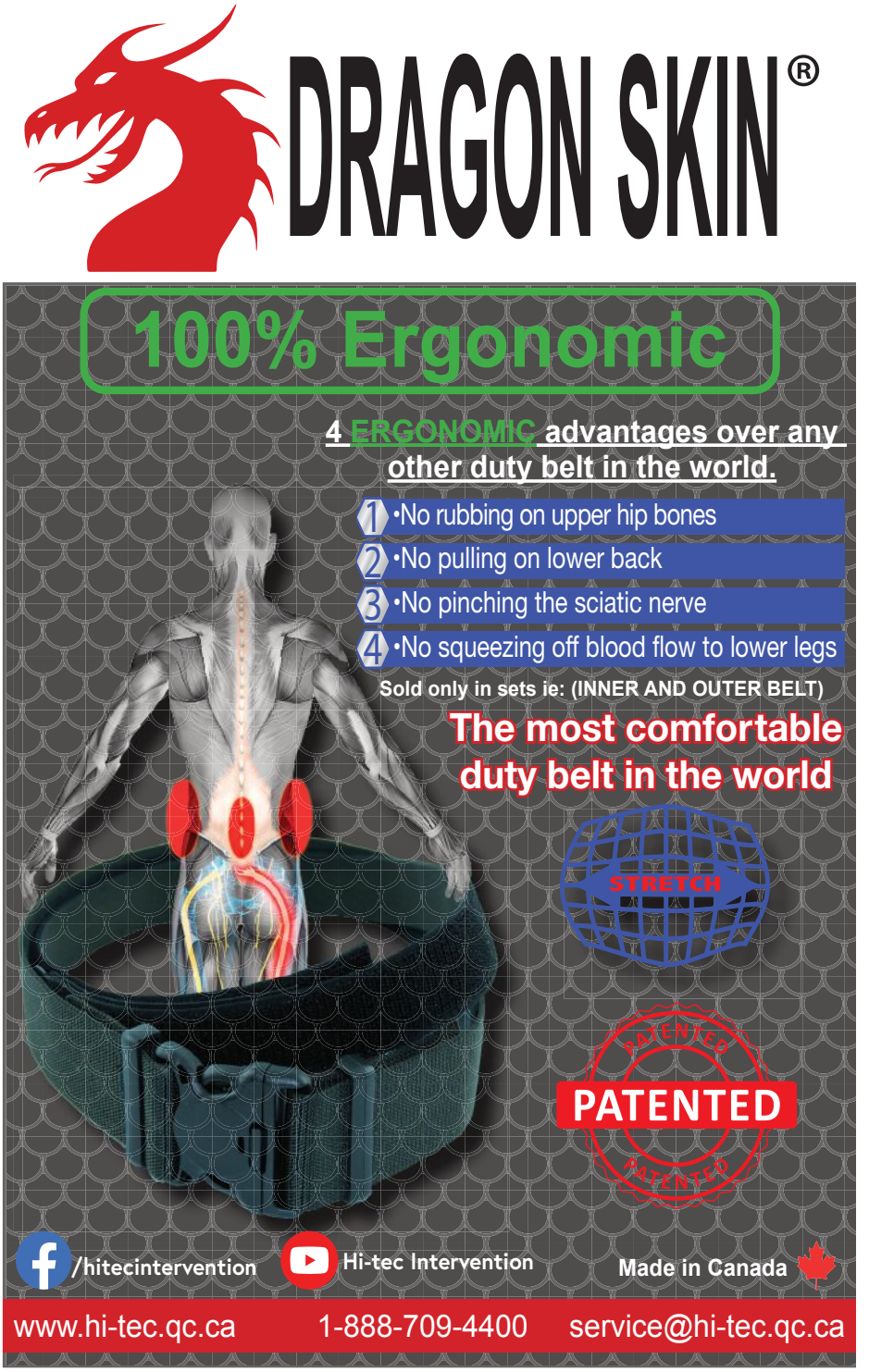
I know you've all heard this one before: "Take a deep breath in, let half out and hold it while you slowly squeeze the trigger rearward." It sounds silly when you think about it, but this is what we're training officers to do in a real gunfight, at close distances. You will most likely experience a huge dump of adrenaline and probably start to hyperventilate as your fight or flight response kicks in, making controlled breaths nearly impossible.

Let me throw one more at you. I've heard this one so many times it makes me cringe when I hear it: "If you can hit the target at the 25 yard line, then you can hit it up-close." The dynamics of a gunfight at 25 yards are completely different from those of a gunfight at three yards or three feet.

I've personally spoken to over 300 law enforcement officers who have been involved in an officer involved shooting, with some being involved in more than one. Not once did any of them mention "breath control," "trigger control" or any of the other "target shooting skills" being taught on law enforcement ranges for gunfighting.

However, more than a few have said how their hand hurt from squeezing the gun so hard after the gunfight was over. One officer explained how he thought he had been shot in his gun hand, as it hurt so much. He actually had other arriving officers look at his hand for the injury which wasn't there.

Another officer recounted how several minutes after the shooting was over and backup had arrived, he looked down at his hand because it was hurting so much. To his amazement, he had checkering on his hand from gripping his handgun's buttstock. He had squeezed the gun so tightly that it left an imprint on his hand.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The Bottom Line

If officers are gripping the handgun as tightly as they possibly can in a real-life gunfight to the point where it leaves a mark on their hand, then why are we not training that way? We need to start training officers to have a vise-like grip on their handguns and stop training them to be target shooters or, worse yet, teaching them sniper skills for gunfighting with a handgun. We need to train the way we fight and that means having a tight grip on the handgun. Forget about all of the other inaccurate recommendations which don't matter. **P&SN**

Michael T. Rayburn has been involved in law enforcement for over 40 years. He is a retired police officer, a former Adjunct Instructor for the Smith & Wesson Academy and the author of five books. Mike can be reached at ***combatgunfighting.com***

What Are the Four Key Elements of **Successful Firearms Training?**

MIKE BOYLE

Whether we like it or not, sometimes the only way to maintain officer and public safety is through the application of force.

In recent times, police use of force has come under the spotlight. Policies, training and even the equipment utilized by law enforcement officers has been challenged, sometimes resulting in negative outcomes. Certain elements have questioned the need for police officers to participate in "tactical" training as they feel it programs officers to overreact in confrontational situations and resort to higher levels of force when situations may be resolved merely with words. I think we would all agree, particularly the involved officers, that a peaceful resolution of conflict would always be best, but, unfortunately, that's not always in the cards.

Considering how law enforcement use of force is now in the forefront, you would think that there would be some hue and cry for better training, but, for the most part, that has failed to materialize. In certain quarters, we have even witnessed serious budget cutbacks as funding for police training has been diverted to other areas. Considering the greater challenges and danger faced by contemporary law enforcement personnel, this is downright tragic. Clearly, officers are held to a higher level of accountability, but are not given the tools to properly do their jobs.

So, are we meeting our obligation to afford officers the best possible training? My hat is off to those agencies and trainers who do indeed go the extra yard and, if you work for such an outfit, count your lucky stars. Unfortunately, there are many departments which cut a corner or two and some which are at the extremely deficient end of the scale. Not too long ago, it came to light that, in one big city department, roughly one third of the officers were not able to meet the state's minimum marksmanship requirement and they were still out there working!

Firearms training is only one-dimensional in the use-of-force training picture, but it seems to get the most attention because of the dire consequences associated with misuse. Some states and just about every agency have requirements which outline a minimum level of proficiency. While some are more challenging than others, most are relatively simple and, with rare exception, test only basic marksmanship skills. But, for an officer to be truly proficient, there are other areas which need to be refined.

Running the Gun

In my training with any of the firearms commonly used by police, I make it a point to address the priorities. Simply, they consist of four areas which are critical to success on which the user has to be absolutely squared away. They include loading; getting into action; executing the fundamentals of practical marksmanship on demand; and getting back in the fight should your gun cease to function.

Three of the above listed priorities have to do with operational skills rather than marksmanship. Yet, in some departments, once an officer graduates from the police academy, there is no effort put forward to refine those very basic, yet critical, skills. As long as they can scratch out a passing score on the mandatory qualification course, they are deemed good to go and prepared for any eventuality they encounter on the street. That might be easier to accept if these other critical areas were somehow evaluated, but that isn't the case. Even officers with poor gun handling technique can get through the course of fire, but that can quickly become unraveled once they are placed in a low light situation or subjected to life-threatening stress.

Load Up!

Getting a solid handle on basic operational skills is as equally important as marksmanship. If you can't draw or reload your pistol under pressure, you will find yourself at a serious disadvantage – no

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matter how well you can shoot.

With training new officers, their initial hands-on training begins with loading. Loading the pistol falls into one of two categories – the first being administrative loading where time is not an element and second is combat loading where there is a sense of urgency into getting more rounds into the gun quickly. Considering that a great many negligent discharges occur when either loading or unloading, this is a topic which needs be revisited from time to time.

The best example I can give of administrative loading is topping off an empty pistol before going on duty. To do so safely and efficiently, remove the pistol from the holster, point it in a safe direction and verify it is empty. Return it to the holster and seat a fully loaded magazine. So, why return it to the holster? By returning to the holster, you eliminate the possibility of a negligent discharge. Once the magazine has been properly seated, draw the gun from the holster, point it a safe direction and rack the slide to chamber a round. At this point, one may opt to do a press check to ensure a round has been chambered. Once you are satisfied the pistol is hot, place it back in the holster and remove the magazine. To complete the process, add one round and reinsert the magazine. Once you make sure the magazine is fully seated, you are good to go.

To safely unload, simply reverse the process. First, remove the magazine from the holstered pistol, eliminating the possibility of multiple negligent discharges. Next, draw the pistol with the muzzle in a safe direction and rack the slide to clear the chamber, letting the round fall to the ground. Visually and physically inspect and, once you are satisfied that it's clear, return it to the holster.

In my experience, this is the most foolproof way of safely administratively loading and unloading a pistol and it minimizes the chance of a negligent discharge. If at any time during the process you are interrupted, assume there is a round in the chamber before you continue.

Keep It Hot

A pistol can be reloaded in battery with the slide forward (speed reload) or with the slide locked to the rear (emergency reload). The biggest mistakes I see cops make in attempting a quick reload is poor positioning of spare magazines and improper drawing of the fresh magazine by grasping it by the floorplate.

With the emergency reload, the shooter can either trip the slide catch or pull the slide all the way to the rear to chamber a round.

Once a decision has been made to reload, both hands and arms are in motion. The strong side arm is retracted slight-

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ly to bring the pistol closer to the chest while the support hand goes to the belt to retrieve a fresh magazine. When removing the magazine from the case, run the index finger down the front of the magazine tube with the floorplate near the base of the thumb. The thumb of the strong hand depresses the magazine release allowing the partially depleted magazine to fall to the ground. Index the side of the magazine closest to you with the magazine well and seat in one positive, fluid motion. Your focus should remain on what is happening in front of you rather than the gun. A properly positioned index finger will greatly help guiding the magazine into the magazine well, whether it's day or night.

If possible, the pistol should be topped off before running it completely empty. Many years ago while attending training conducted by the HK International Training Division, we were told to "load when you can, not when you have to" and that certainly struck a chord with me. But, the reality of gunfighting is that, in the heat of battle, we may run our pistols dry and experience a lock back. If that's the case, there is an extra step as you also have to send the slide forward to chamber a round.

With the emergency reload, the initial steps are exactly the same. There are two ways to send the slide to battery including tripping the slide release or taking a grip on the slide, pulling it all the way to the rear and letting go. Some trainers are very dogmatic as to what technique is best, but I no longer become overly upset about it. Using the slide release to send the gun to battery is faster and, if you prefer to do that, I have no heartburn at all.

No doubt, some will take exception to this, but I am not a fan of the classic tactical reload where you draw a fresh magazine and maintain control of the partially depleted magazine with one hand. Sorry, team, but in the stress of a gunfight, that simply isn't going to happen with cops who only go to the range once or twice a year. If you are a true believer, by all means have at it, but I would rather devote training time to things which my students are more likely to utilize when their fingers have turned to flippers.

Is the tactical reload practical? Managing two objects in the hand after being subjected to life-threatening stress is asking for a lot.

Drawing the Pistol

Holster skills are yet another area where we should invest some time. Far too often, I have seen law enforcement officers receive some rudimentary instruction in their basic training, but are never afforded any additional training. As a result, officers are slow into action and, in some instances, are even dangerous. Considering that officers sometimes have to quickly react to a threat and have to play catch-up, having the ability to efficiently draw the pistol is absolutely critical.

With new officers, drawing and a safe return to the holster is a skill we prac-

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tice for quite some time before going any further. When getting a new duty or concealment holster, practice is very important before trusting your life with new equipment.

The formula I have been using for drawing the pistol is as follows:

- **Grip** – Both hands are in motion. The support hand goes to body midline as the strong hand gets a firm and final shooting grip on the gun. All security measures on the holster are released.
- **Lift** – The strong hand lifts the gun just above the holster. As soon as it clears, make sure the wrist is straight.
- **Smack** – The hands are brought together at chest level. The support hand completes the shooting grip.
- **Drive** – The gun is brought to eye level as you look for the sights and extend the arms. The index finger of the strong hand is now in contact with the trigger to achieve shot break.

I have my students practice slowly for form at first and then gradually increase speed. When all the bugs have been worked out, go to full speed and add the trigger press. The gun should be returned to the holster using one hand only after scanning for additional threats. Should you be drawing from a plain-clothes or off-duty rig, be sure to work your covering garment into the mix.

When practicing the draw stroke or training others in it, it is absolutely critical that the guns be checked to verify they are indeed safe and clear and that there is no live ammunition in the immediate area.

Stoppage Reduction

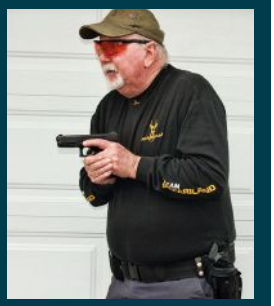
A properly maintained autopistol used with service quality ammunition is extremely reliable, but any number of things cause them to stop working. I would submit that the vast majority of pistol stoppages have to do with shooter error. In the heat of battle, there is simply no time to take a diagnostic approach and all officers should be familiar with immediate action drills.

The second your pistol quits working, smartly smack the magazine floorplate, pull the slide to the rear and let it go. This will fix the vast majority of stoppages and have you back in the game in a blink of an eye. I find it advantageous to cant the pistol slightly to the side so that anything tying up the gun is expelled from the ejection port and falls out rather than back inside, creating an even bigger problem. I can't emphasize enough that the slide should be operated like a slingshot as riding it forward can create a feedway stoppage.

Feedway stoppages or double feeds take far more time to clear and are often caused by a failed attempt in clearing a simple stoppage. An old-school technique involved stripping the magazine out of the pistol, racking the slide to clear any obstruction and reloading. This burns up more than a few critical seconds. A faster way of getting it done is partially stripping the magazine and trapping it with the pinky. Invert the pistol, rack the slide a few times, reseat the magazine, and rack the slide one more time to chamber a round. While not ideal, one can clear a double feed

A smooth draw stroke can be accomplished by practicing the following: Release all retention devices and get a firm and final shooting grip.

Lift the pistol just above the holster and straighten the wrist.



The hands come together at chest height and...

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in half the time. Truth be told, nightmares like this is why I carried a backup gun.

Making It All Work

One thing which always comes up as an obstacle to training is available time and money. If officers only fire some antiquated qualification course time after time, they are being shortchanged. Fortunately, force-on-force role playing exercises and video-based simulators can fill the gap, particularly when it comes to decision-making, but many other important skills can only be refined in a live fire exercise.

For years, my outfit has been utilizing dynamic training exercises to better assess shooter proficiency. Contrary to popular opinion, they are very cost-effective to run and easy to create. Officers perform one at a time under the watchful eye of the instructor staff and multiple skills such as reloading, use of cover, presence of innocent bystanders, safe movement, and verbalization can be evaluated. Time frames are short, yet realistic, and very few rounds are actually fired. Ultimately, this gives the shooter a better idea as to his/her capabilities.

Double feeds can be cleared faster by partially dropping the magazine and trapping it with the pinky. Invert the pistol and rack the slide multiple times to allow any obstruction to fall free. Slam the magazine back in, release the slide and the pistol is ready to fire.

I recognize that, for whatever reason, some agencies will not go the extra mile and give their officers what they need. The sad reality is that, if you find yourself in this predicament, you're on your own! Get yourself some inert dummy rounds and practice. Sure, it might require the investment of a few bucks and a little of your personal time, but how much is your life worth?

Clearly, working in the law enforcement profession is more dangerous than ever. Use of firearms to protect your life or that of others remains a last resort, but we have to be prepared for that eventuality. When things get ugly, a winner's mindset and being proficient in practical marksmanship and operational skills will keep you safe. **P&SN**

Captain Mike Boyle served with the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Law Enforcement, and has been an active firearms instructor for more than 30 years. He has been an assistant police academy director and remains active as an academy rangemaster and instructor. Mike has served on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI) since 1996. He is the architect and coordinator of IALEFI's Master Instructor Development Program.

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CONCEALMENT HOLSTERS:
An Essential Guide for Men and Women

RALPH MROZ AND NATALIE STRONG

Whether off duty, working undercover, or simply fielding a question from a citizen or family member regarding CCW recommendations, this guide can offer helpful advice.

Photos courtesy of (starting from left/clockwise): Natalie Strong "Elegant and Armed"; clingerholsters.com; aliengearholsters.com; seeetz at unsplash

Savvy individuals who carry firearms sometimes joke about their collection of holsters gathering dust in a drawer – ones which have been amassed over time, but rarely see the light of day. This accumulation isn't just a result of frivolous spending; rather, it stems from trying to find the perfect fit. Different firearms necessitate different holster types and the quest for quality adds another layer of complexity. When you factor in the multitude of reasons behind holster preferences, multiplied by the extensive array of manufacturers, you're left with a handful of holsters gathering dust and only a select few which see regular use.

You can save yourself a good deal of trouble by understanding the variable characteristics of holsters. Here's a guide to them – Concealment Holsters 101, if you will.

OBJECTIVES

There are 3½ objectives of any concealment holster: security, access, concealment, and the "half" consideration: one-handed reholstering ability.

Security – The holster should hold the gun in place while you are running; while you're upside down; while you get in and out of cars; and so on. You don't spend your life sitting still and, in a fight, you sure as heck aren't standing still.

Access – The holster should provide access to the gun in a short amount of time in compromised positions, such as when you're rolling around on the ground or strapped in a car seat. Further, the gun should be held in a stable position, so that the draw can be consistent and reliable under stress.

Concealment – The holster should not let the gun be visible or "print" through concealing garments.

One-handed reholstering capability is useful if your hands will be tied up with other things immediately after firing or challenging a suspect with your gun, such as handcuffing or restraining someone (assuming you have arrest au-

NRA 2023 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

On Friday, July 14th, 2023, just before 3:00 PM, officers of the Fargo, North Dakota Police Department were investigating a traffic accident on a thoroughfare in Fargo when, without warning, they came under fire from an unknown assailant who was firing a .223 caliber rifle.

The assailant, who was parked facing the roadway in a nearby parking lot, began firing at three officers who had walked near his vehicle, striking all three. The suspect continued to fire as he exited his vehicle, also firing at the people involved in the collision, as well as the firefighters who responded to the crash. One of the three officers, Jake Wallin, managed to fire one round before collapsing.

Officer Zachary Robinson, who was standing in the street at the time the gunfire erupted, immediately saw the suspect and returned fire with his handgun while radioing for assistance and taking cover behind a vehicle.

Robinson continued to engage the assailant as he moved behind his vehicle. Officer Robinson advanced on the suspect, who was on the ground behind the vehicle, and commanded him to drop the handgun he now had in his hand. The suspect was unresponsive, as he had succumbed to his wounds.

Officer Zachery Robinson exhibited exceptional bravery and courage while facing the armed, violent suspect. Officer Robinson's actions not only saved his life, but the lives of fellow officers and citizens. As such, it is with great honor and pride that the National Rifle Association names Officer Zachary Robinson as the 2023 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year!

Officer Zachary Robinson

Fargo, North Dakota Police Department

"Officer Robinson's commitment to protecting his fellow officers and citizens is a testament to his courage and demonstrates the very best of our Nation's finest who don the uniform of law and order. The NRA proudly supports the heroic men and women of law enforcement and we are grateful for their service to our country."

NRA President, Charles Cotton.

Forms for nominating candidates for the NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award may be downloaded at http://le.nra.org/documents/pdf/law/leoy.pdf.

For more information about NRA's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award and its Law Enforcement Division, call (703) 267-1632 or send an e-mail to LE@nrahq.org.

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The ability to reholster with one hand is a big plus when dealing with difficult circumstances.

thority); holding onto innocents (such as a spouse or children); and so on. This capability is absent in holsters made of thin, floppy material and inherent in holsters made of rigid materials like KYDEX®.

PROCESS AND TRADE-OFFS

These 3½ characteristics can sometimes work against one another, so intelligent trade-offs, based on your own lifestyle and threat assessment, are sometimes necessary. For example, retention devices will usually impede draw speed, as will a deeply concealed gun. A comfortable holster may not provide access under some conditions (e.g., most hip holsters are hard to access while seat belted in a car). Thus, realize that finding the right holster for you is a process. Just as you are unlikely to marry the first man or woman you date, you may have to experiment with a few holsters before finding one which is right for you.

MAIN TYPES

The most popular holsters are hip holsters and they ride on a belt outside the pants on the strong side. Pancake holsters are made of two pieces of material with the gun sandwiched between them and they have two or more belt slots. "Askins"- or "Avenger"-type hip holsters are made of one piece of material folded around the gun and usually have a belt slot on the rear of the holster and a belt loop sewn on the back of it. The pancake-style provides more leverage on the gun to pull it closer to the body and, thus, is a bit more concealable.

Inside the Waistband (IWB) holsters offer the highest level of concealment among holster options.

IWB or inside the waistband holsters are worn inside the pants and attach to the belt with loops or hooks. These are the most concealable type of holster, but require pants which are about an inch more in the waist measurement than you

normally wear. Some people find them less comfortable than hip holsters and vice versa. Certain IWBs have an extra "flange" or "tab" to the rear to help keep the holster anchored in one place. You may or may not need/like them.

Shoulder holsters are seen more often on TV shows than they are in actual use.

Crossdraw holsters are worn on the off side of the body. They are practical, particularly for people who spend a lot of time in cars, but they are less concealable than hip holsters because they have to be worn in front of the hip bone.

Shoulder holsters are essentially uncomfortable crossdraw holsters. They are acceptable when the gun can't be worn on the hip, but these are specialty items and are much less popular in the real world than they are on TV. They require an open front jacket, while most hip holsters can be concealed by an untucked shirt. Vertical carry shoulder holsters are best for very large guns. Horizontal carry shoulder holsters are best for normal carry guns and they are worn high near the armpit – not low near the floating rib like so many catalog pictures show.

Fanny packs (worn in front) are useful in hot weather when clothing is thin, but they make sitting and driving uncomfortable and too many of them look like gun packs. If you can, choose a bright color. I even sewed an "L.L.Bean" tag onto mine!

Paddle holsters are held in place with a paddle attached to the holster which slides inside the pants and is held in place by belt tension on it. Their main virtue is their "quick on, quick off" capability. Most, but not all, are less secure than hip holsters.

Pocket holsters are popular for smaller handguns; however, drawing from them while seated is nearly impossible.

Ankle holsters involve significant trade-offs when carrying your primary gun since you can't move while drawing from them. They do have a rightful place for backup guns, though.

Pocket holsters are an underlooked option. They are a convenient way to

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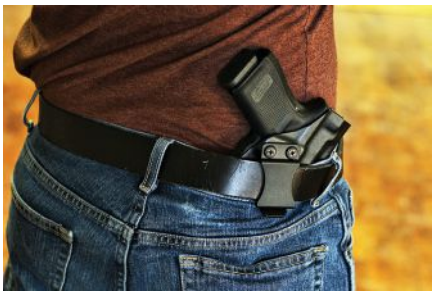

An Inside the Waistband (IWB) holster shown with a 15° cant

carry a smaller gun and require no concealing garment. However, they cannot be drawn from while seated which is a serious consideration.

Small of the back holsters carry the gun severely canted at the center of the back and are not recommended. If you fall backwards, you will be crushing your spine between the floor and the one to two pounds of polymer/steel which compose your gun and the 150+ pounds which make up you. And, then consider sitting for any period of time with them… not a good idea.

Appendix Inside the Waistband (AIWB) holsters carry the gun in front of the body, on the belt between the hipbone and the belt buckle. They have some significant advantages for women and anyone with arthritic shoulders. In my opinion, most folks either love them or hate them, because they either work well for you or they don't work well at all.

RETENTION

Holsters either have something holding the gun in them other than friction or they don't. Speed scabbards, or open top holsters, have none and these are generally preferred for concealed carry. A simple – and the oldest – retention device is the thumb break, in which a strap of material over the top of the gun is unsnapped with the thumb as the gun is drawn. These are reasonable devices as they slow down the draw stroke only a bit, but they do make it more complicated which is the real concern. There are many kinds of retention devices available on concealment holsters and they usually involve one or more digits of the drawing hand releasing one or more levers as the gun is drawn. Some are more intuitive than others.

The need for retention devices is very real for exposed guns, such as on a uniformed police duty belt. They help prevent bad guys from simply yanking a cop's own gun out of his/her holster. But, the need for such devices is less in concealment holsters, particularly for non-sworn citizens since the gun is (or should be) concealed and no one should know it's there. Plainclothes police, on the other hand, usually make no secret of the fact that they're cops, so retention devices on their plainclothes holsters make sense.

MATERIALS

Synthetic materials like KYDEX or other injection molded polymers have become the norm in the last few de-

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cades. Usually rigid, polymer holsters don't lose their shape, nor do they get soft and rot in humid conditions and they are slightly faster than leather on the draw. Synthetics are generally preferred by armed professionals (traditionalists excluded) who never know what conditions their holster will be exposed to (e.g., I once had to walk waist deep through a swamp while on an armed plainclothes gig).

Leather is the traditional material for holsters. It can "give" a bit and conform to the shape of your body a little more than a synthetic. The fact that leather will "bind" the gun a little if your draw is not perfectly straight up can be an advantage if you are concerned about retention and don't want to complicate things with a retention strap. If retention in an open top holster is your preference, the trick is to go with a deep-seated leather IWB.

SLOT/LOOP WIDTH AND BELTS

It's important to match the slot/loop width of the holster to the width of the belt you will wear with it. Some holsters come with adjustable slots/loops and that's a good feature. But, many holsters come with belt slots or loops which are a fixed width – usually 1¾ inches. Such holsters are advertised as "fitting belts up to 1¾ inches wide" which is wrong; in fact, such holsters will fit *only* 1¾ inch belts properly. It should be obvious that a holster with slots wider than the belt they are worn on will cause the holster to slip and slide around. A good gun belt should be between 1¼ inches wide to 1¾ inches and reinforced to accommodate the weight of the gun (ordinary belts won't do so).

Repeat: It's critical to use a real gun belt with a hip holstered gun! A true gun belt is the foundation of your carry system. Many beginners cheap out here which is a big mistake.

RIDE

The "ride" of a holster refers to the vertical height at which the gun is carried relative to the belt line. A normal ride holster will have the trigger near the belt line. A high ride holster will have the trigger above the belt. A deep riding holster will have the trigger below the belt. High ride holsters are harder to draw from

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and, unless correctly designed and executed, can allow the grip end of the gun to flop out away from the body. Short barreled guns will have this tendency even with normal ride holsters, so a good quality holster is critical with them. The ride of the gun, combined with the holster's cant (see below) will largely determine how comfortably a holster carries a particular gun for you.

CANT

The "cant" of a holster refers to how tilted forward from vertical the gun rides when carried in the holster. A straight drop holster has zero degrees of cant and carries the gun vertically. An FBI cant holster has a cant of between 10 and 20 degrees. Some holsters are severely canted to 30 degrees or even more. While more cant aids concealability a bit, the main reason for it is to make the gun 1) comfortable to carry and 2) easy to draw. The preference of cant and ride is individual. I prefer a cant and ride such that the backstrap of the gun's grip lies in line with, and just below, my floating rib. Other people have different preferences.

WOMEN AND CONCEALED CARRY CONSIDERATIONS

Some women have a difficult time with concealment holsters and dressing for concealed carry is not intuitive. Women tend to be shorter waisted than men, making their draw stroke more difficult. They also tend to have greater hip flare, resulting in the grip of the gun being severely angled into their rib cage which in turn results in discomfort and difficulty in drawing. With different body types, comfort levels and a large variety of women's clothing options, the path to concealing a firearm can be difficult for some to navigate. In times past, manufacturers have tried turning a man's holster into a "woman's holster" by either adding a wedge between the body and gun to compensate for the hip flare, or by lowering the ride of the holster. Both "solutions" compromise concealability. Obviously, the slimmer and longer waisted a woman is, the more likely it is that she can use a man's holster satisfactorily, but many women find them unsatisfactory to some degree.

All of this assumes that a woman will carry her gun on her hip on a belt. However, women often don't dress in ways which will accommodate that mode of carry. For some ladies, off-body carry, such as in a purse, with all of its serious inherent disadvantages, may be the best option. On the belt, if her attire so allows, most women find that a crossdraw or AIWB holster is the best option.

After spending years of learning through trial and error (and training), Natalie Strong, the founder of "Elegant and Armed," a blog which blends fashion and women's safety, shares some of the tips and tricks which she has picked up along the way.

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CONCEALMENT HOLSTERS: AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR MEN AND WOMEN

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COMMON HOLSTERS FOR WOMEN

KYDEX – Typically clipped to a belt and worn with pants which have belt loops.

Bellybands – Worn around your natural waist or hips and do not require belt loops, making them great for athletic wear, skirts and dress pants. Bellybands used to be known as "soft" holsters, due to the lack of trigger cover. However, many newer models support the use of a KYDEX holster for better protection.

Thigh holster shorts accommodate smaller handguns and work well with mid- to full-length skirts and dresses.

Bra Holster – Worn just under a bra at the front or side of your body. (A larger cup size typically helps with concealment.)

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CONCEALMENT HOLSTERS: AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR MEN AND WOMEN

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Thigh Holster – Placing the firearm on the inside or outside of your thigh, this type of holster is perfect for skirts and dresses.

Ankle Holster – Great for carrying a smaller gun under flared pants or a maxi skirt.

Concealed Carry Purse – Great as a backup holster should you need to temporarily disarm in a public restroom or dressing room. Also helpful for those outfits which don't allow you to carry a gun on your body. A good quality concealed carry purse should always have a separate pocket for the gun and a holster secured in place.

HOW TO BUILD A CONCEALED CARRY CAPSULE WARDROBE

Instead of styling an outfit to conceal your gun every day, Natalie suggests building a Concealed Carry Capsule Wardrobe. A little preplanning will save from decision fatigue and ensure you have a section in your closet which will always conceal your firearm.

When selecting a holster for your wardrobe, she recommends starting with the one you perform best with and styling as many outfit combinations around that holster as possible. Often, this can be a KYDEX holster connected to a belt which protects the trigger, places the firearm near your hands for quick access, and stays in place when you draw the gun.

Next, choose other holster types to fill in the gaps. For example, if you wear a lot of dresses, you might want to add a thigh holster or concealed carry purse. Make sure to be realistic so no matter what you wear, you have a method to carry your gun.

COMFORT

One major barrier to women's concealed carry is that wearing a gun just isn't comfortable. Unfortunately, no magic holster exists which will feel 100% comfortable right away. It takes time to get used to the feeling of carrying a firearm. Still, there are things which ladies can do to make the experience better.

Belts – According to Natalie, she used to hate wearing belts, but after switching from mid-rise jeans to a higher waistline,

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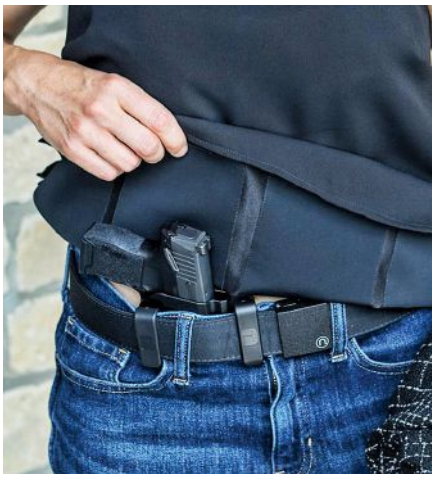
her eyes were opened to the real problem – placement. The belt and added weight of the gun were putting pressure right on her hipbones and, by the end of the day, her hips were sore and bruised. So, if you find belts uncomfortable, try different waistlines to see what works for your body type.

Chaffing – A piece of metal rubbing against your skin all day can lead to irritation, especially if your grip has a lot of texture. Whether you're using a holster connected to a belt or a bellyband, try layering a tank top under your blouse and tucking it between you and the gun to protect your skin. Similarly, when wearing an off-the-shoulder top, a bandeau bra worn around your hips works great.

Thigh Holster – Thigh holsters are great for wearing under skirts and dresses, but some are more comfortable than others. The first one Natalie tried consisted of an elastic band around her leg, but she soon discovered that when walking, both the elastic and gun scratched her opposite leg. She has since opted for a pair of thigh holster shorts which protect both legs from chaffing.



The Concealment Camisole, featuring built-in shields, prevents the gun's outline from imprinting through clothing while worn with a body holster.

CONCEALMENT TIPS AND TRICKS

When carrying a concealed firearm, the point is to keep it hidden. Therefore, women want to dress in a way which avoids "printing" or showing an outline of the gun through their clothes. Here are some tips to help camouflage a firearm.

Concealed Carry Belts – Natalie mentioned that she struggled for years trying to make regular fashion belts work for concealed carry. Many were too flimsy which meant that she had to tighten her belt beyond a comfortable level just to keep the gun from tilting away from my body. Her solution was to wear belts designed specifically for concealed carry and now they are all that she uses. Concealed carry belts are more structured, support the weight of your gun and keep your holster close to your body.

Holster Adjustments – A common cause of printing is that the grip of the gun can angle away from your body. The simple addition of a holster wing helps tuck the grip closer to your body for better concealment. Similarly, when the top

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of your holster tilts away from your body, try connecting a holster wedge with VELCRO® to your holster to correct the issue.

Concealment Camisole – Natalie's struggle with printing inspired her to create the Concealment Camisole, a top designed with special shields to prevent showing an outline of the gun through your clothes when you carry a holster on your body.

Patterns – Selecting a patterned or textured shirt is a classic concealment technique which, like camouflage, helps break up the outline of your gun. Not to mention, your choice of pattern says a lot about you and helps express your style.

Layering – An underlayer like a compression tank top can help press the gun closer to your body to prevent printing. One of the easiest ways to improve concealment is by adding an outer layer such as a jacket or sweater. Plus, it's helpful to have an extra layer at hand for unexpected situations such as your shirt getting wet or the wind "blowing your cover" by pressing your shirt against the gun.

BOTTOM LINE

If you are a man, the best bet is to go with a normal ride, FBI cant (or straight drop), pancake-style speed scabbard and a quality gun belt which mates to it properly. Women are probably best advised to start with a crossdraw or AIWB holster. From then on, you can experiment with other holsters if you feel the need to tweak a characteristic. Remember, it's a process!

Visit **elegantandarmed.com** for more information about creating a capsule wardrobe. P&SN

Ralph Mroz was a police officer (part-time) in Massachusetts for 20 years, seven of which he was assigned to his county's drug task force. He has taught at a number of national, regional and international law enforcement conferences. Ralph now has three books available on Amazon: Street Focused Handgun Training (Volumes 1, 2 and 3)*, as well as two republished books,* Defensive Shooting for Real-Life Encounters *and* Tactical Defensive Training for Real-Life Encounters.

Natalie Strong is the founder of "Elegant and Armed," a blog which blends fashion and women's safety, inspiring others to embrace concealed carry with style. Natalie is a certified NRA pistol trainer, a member of the Professional Outdoor Media Association (POMA), and a writer for USCCA's Concealed Carry Magazine. She also has a passion for developing products to help women truly be elegant and armed. Through product reviews and information articles such as "How to Create a Concealed Carry Capsule Wardrobe," she encourages women to be proactive in their approach to safety.

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POLICE SECURITY EXPO SHOW GUIDE

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NOTE: Exhibitor names and booth numbers are subject to changes and/or revisions.

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New! "Superfast" Registration Badge Pickup System Now in Place

The Future Is Now!

The **Knightscope ROBOT ROADSHOW** will be on display at Police Security Expo 2024 (located on the left side of exhibit hall).

Step into the Knightscope Pod and discover how security robots, emergency communication systems and automated gunshot detection devices are enhancing public safety and security across the US.

The Robot Roadshow is an interactive event featuring expert-led demonstrations in a climate-controlled, futuristic "Pod." Experience AI-equipped, self-driving technologies which protect places where people live, work, study, and visit.

Attendees can interact with Autonomous Security Robots, test a blue light emergency phone, see an Automated Gunshot Detection (ASD) system, and explore the Knightscope Security Operations Center (KSOC) user interface.

Famous TV and Movie Show Cars will be on Display in the PSE 2024 Registration Area

1989 Batmobile

Pac-Man Car

Mummy Mobile

Bugs Bunny Buggy

Batgirl Motorcycle

Daily Prize Drawing Raffles – Win a Chance to Spin the Prize Wheel!

Vintage police cars on display inside the exhibit hall, including the Wheels of Honor Tribute Car

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Welcome to Chief Talk

Location: Booth #845

An ongoing conversation about the latest issues and trends in law enforcement, brought to you by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. This ongoing podcast series is moderated by John Zebrowski, former President of the Association, and Mitch Sklar, the NJSACOP Executive Director. To access the archives of podcast episodes, visit **njsacop-podcast.org**.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Location: Seminar Area (Left Side of Exhibit Hall)

NJSACOP LEAC Grant Program

Presenter: Harry J. Delgado, ED.S

Are you seeking accreditation, but you need the funding? Find out about the grant program and other resources to help achieve NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation. During fiscal year 2023-2024, the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission Grant Program is making funds available to be used for the support of non-accredited law enforcement agencies in their pursuit of attainment of NJSACOP LEAC Accreditation.

Note: PSE attractions venue subject to change.

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(2) LEGO® Police Prisoner Transport Truck

(2) Digital Tire Gauge

(2) Car Safety Hammer

(2) Magnetic Wristband for Holding Screws/Bits

PSE LED Flashlights

PSE Medallion Hats

(2) Mini-Laptop/iPad® Stand

Double Packet LED Night Lights

PSE Utility Knife

(2) Unisex Police Socks

(2) .50 Cal Shot Glass

(2) Bluetooth® Waterproof Portable Speaker

All 2024 Prize Winners will also receive a PSE Challenge Coin/Bottle Opener, plus the first 500 visitors who pick up their Attendee Name Badges (each day) will receive a special PSE Logo Luggage Tag.

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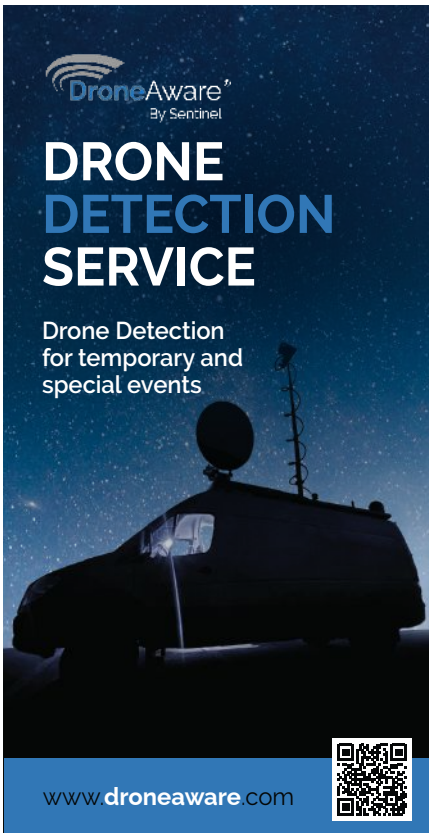

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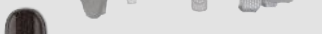

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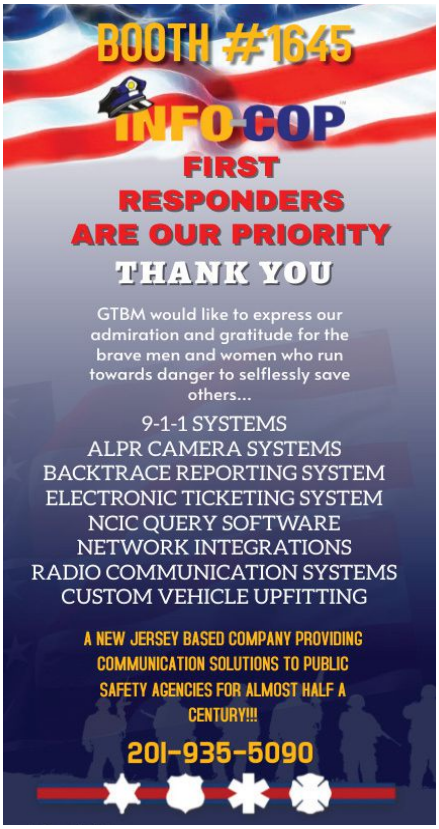
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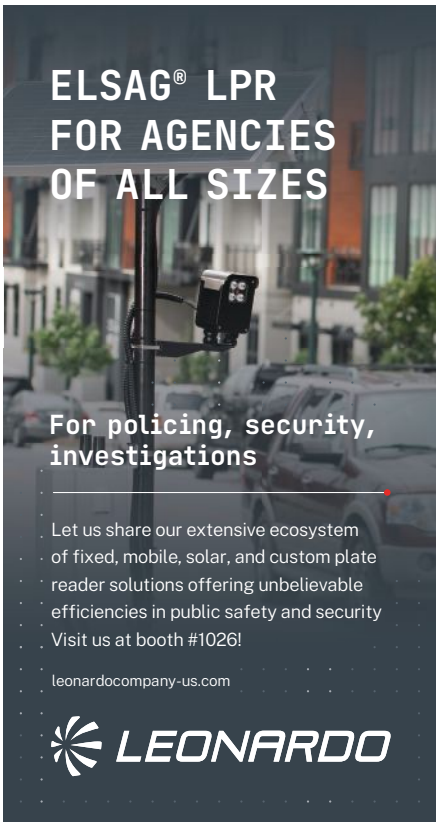
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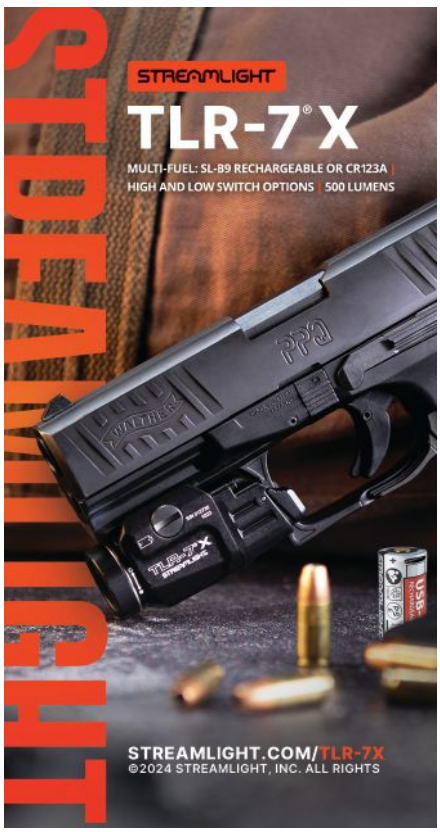
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P&SN Police and Security News
Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

PUBLISHER: Al Menear
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Toni Saturno
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ART DIRECTOR: Jeanne Daubner
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CIRCULATION MANAGER: Bill Zadlo

ADVERTISING:
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145 Main St., Ste. B-1
Pennsburg, PA 18073-1372
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Police and Security News is published bimonthly by Performance Publishing, LLC, 145 Main St., Ste. B-1, Pennsburg, PA 18073-1372.

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Standard Rate Postage Paid at Bellmawr, NJ (permit #1239).

POSTMASTER: Please send form #3579 to Performance Publishing, LLC, 145 Main St., Ste. B-1, Pennsburg, PA 18073-1372

All subscriptions and editorial should be directed to: Performance Publishing, LLC, 145 Main St., Ste. B-1, Pennsburg, PA 18073-1372

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JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

That's odd, you don't look like a 16-year-old girl... A Texas man is accused of trying to sneak on board a flight by taking a photo of another passenger's boarding pass. Authorities say he was caught because the flight was full and he didn't have a place to sit. He boarded the plane and a flight attendant helped him get to the lavatory in the front of the plane. After everyone else boarded, he moved to a lavatory in the back of the plane. When he exited, the plane had started to taxi – he told a flight attendant that he was in seat 21F. There was already somebody in seat 21F, a girl traveling alone, and the flight attendant confirmed that she was a ticketed passenger. When the crew searched, his name was not found in any database. The plane returned to the gate, where waiting officers reviewed surveillance footage from the boarding area and saw him taking pictures of several passengers' phones and boarding passes when they weren't looking. He then used his phone as a boarding pass to get on the plane. (*Next up...having your picture attached to the ticket.*)

Is it time to start using a dumb phone again?... Sheriff's Office deputies in Baxter County, Arkansas, responded to a report of a robbery at a house in Mountain Home. Two men had pounded on the front door of the house a half hour before midnight. When the homeowners opened the door, they were confronted by two masked men with guns. The residents didn't have cash, so one of the robbers said he'd take PayPal. One of the victims sent $120 while held at gunpoint and the men fled. Investigators simply traced who the recipient account belonged to and arrested two 19-year-old men the next morning, charging each with three counts of kidnaping, aggravated robbery and burglary, and theft. (*Paper trail? What's a paper trail?*)

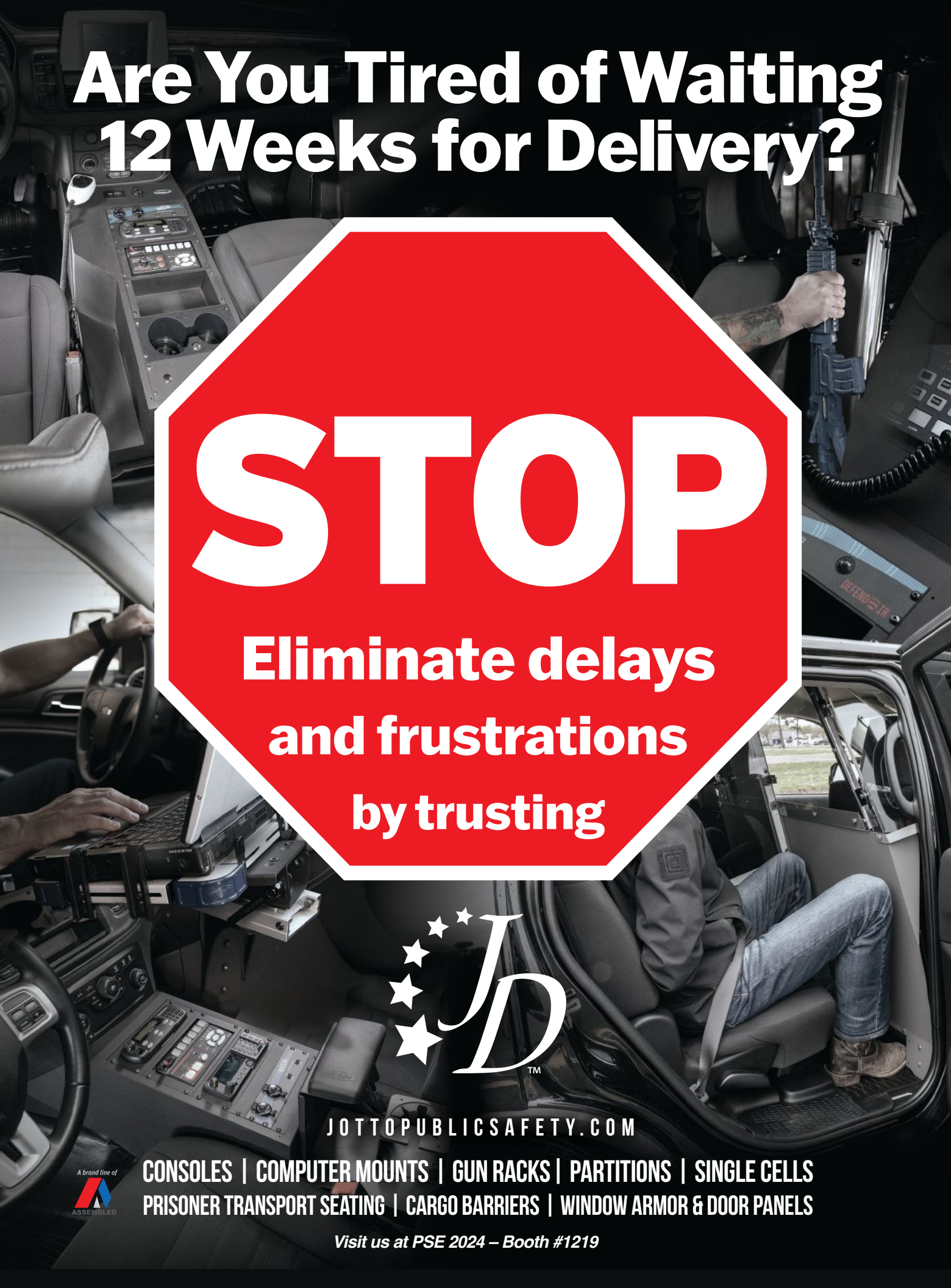
"Hey, thanks! Can I get a few more cards for my friends? Say, ten or 12?"... A 30-year-old Canadian man is facing a half dozen charges after trying to boost his drug dealing business by handing out "free samples" of cocaine. Police say officers patrolling a downtown casino on Christmas Eve became aware of a business card which had been handed out to casino goers. The cards included the name "Alex Lee" and had a small baggie of suspected cocaine attached. Investigators tracked down the suspect via his Alex Lee alias, gathering evidence and eventually identifying his vehicle. Police subsequently pulled over a 2020 Toyota Tundra, arresting the driver. Officers searched the truck as well as his home, seizing almost 60 grams of cocaine portioned into individual packages, a digital scale, $1,280 in cash, and the Alex Lee business cards. (*By any chance, did this guy visit the White House a few months ago?*)

I was wondering why I saw that photo of a radio tower on a milk carton... An Alabama radio station was forced to go silent after thieves stole their 200 foot radio tower and other equipment from a building. When WJLX radio station sent a landscaping crew to the site, they discovered the 200 foot radio tower was gone. When a crew member called the station's general manager to break the news, he was in disbelief. "What do you mean the tower is gone? Are you sure you're in the right place?" He said there were wires all over the ground and the tower was gone. Not only was the radio tower stolen, but a nearby building was also vandalized. The thieves stole every piece of equipment from the building, including a transmitter. The radio station has filed a report with the Jasper Police Department. At this point, officials are still lacking information which they need to conduct a full-fledged investigation. (*Did a competing radio station suddenly appear overnight in the next town over?*)

Who told Barney to take the bullet out of his pocket?... A Florida sheriff's deputy confused a falling acorn for a gunshot and responded by unleashing a hail of bullets on his own patrol car while a man sat handcuffed inside. The deputy with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office shot up his vehicle after the acorn struck the hood. His female partner also opened fire on the vehicle after he yelled, "Shots fired!" The handcuffed suspect inside the car was not struck by any of the rounds fired. The deputies responded after a woman had reported that her boyfriend refused to return her vehicle and sent her threatening messages. While the female deputy spoke with the woman, the male returned to his vehicle to grab some papers. As he was walking past the vehicle, the acorn fell and struck the hood. He convinced himself that he'd been hit by a bullet, then dove and rolled dramatically on the ground, firing his service weapon. Later in the interview, he was shown video of the acorn falling on his car. He asked the investigator, "Acorn?" The deputy has since resigned. (*The squirrels were packing AKorn-47s that day.*) P&SN

A POOCH PIRATE... BETTER THAN A CAT BURGLAR...

A doorbell camera captured the moment when a Tennessee homeowner's package was stolen from their front porch. A woman in Tennessee who was waiting for an Amazon delivery learned that the package she ordered was taken by an unexpected porch pirate. The homeowner received an E-mail notice from Amazon stating that one of her packages had been delivered. She then reviewed her doorbell app which showed the thief committing the crime – her neighbor's dog. Much to her amazement, the neighbor's dog scooped up the package and fled the scene. She and her husband rushed outside to retrieve the package. "We had ordered my son new basketball shoes that he needed that day, so it was very alarming," she said. She and her husband found the box completely shredded and the athletic shoes had a few bite marks. (*My dog ate a whole bag of Scrabble tiles, so I took him to the vet...no word yet...*)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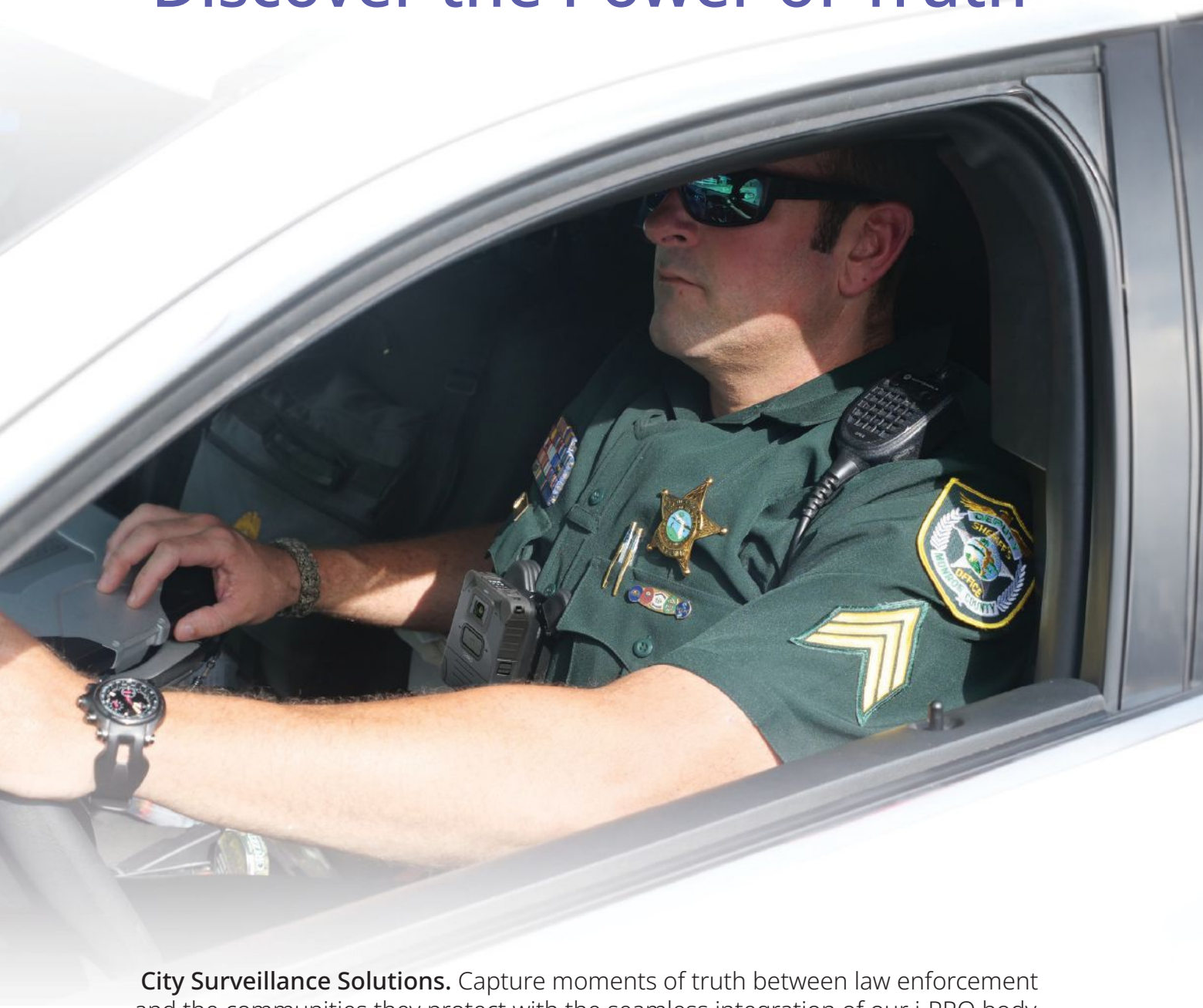

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